



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025, 7:00 PM

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT
REMOTE ATTENDANCE: VIA ZOOM MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Vice Chairman Robert Zielfelder Jr., Regular Members James Gage, Sean Dwyer, Laurie Burstein, Jamison Boucher, and Alternate Ann Harford

ABSENT: Regular Members Sean Dwyer and Kathy Caton

STAFF: John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner and Ashley DuBois, Recording Clerk

OTHERS

PRESENT: Tom Palshaw, Ellington Trails Committee (arrived at 7:22 PM)

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Non-Agenda Items): None

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Plan of Conservation & Development, Chapter 4-Conservation Strategies, Natural Resource Preservation: Historic Preservation.
 - a. Review and Evaluate Proposals for a Town-wide Historic Resources Inventory.

John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner, announced the town received three consultant proposals for the Historic Resources Inventory project. To evaluate the proposals, a draft proposal evaluation form was prepared based on the proposal submission contents. Chairman Quarno asked for clarification on the 1-5 scale and John suggested 5 being the highest rating. Commissioner Burstein asked if cost should be included and John replied that all proposals reached the budget.

All companies are out-of-state. Chairman Quarno asked if the company selected would be remote or if they would work in-person and John suggested the selected company would likely need to make a trip to Ellington. John will contact each company's references for the following months meeting. In summary, Chairman Quarno proposed if individuals would prefer to rate the companies independently or as a commission in person. The commission concluded individuals will review and rate the consultant before next month's commission meeting and a round table discussion will ensue in September to select a proposal. In preparation, the evaluation form will be revised to include all three companies. Chairman

Quarno suggested adding a deliverables section, this will be added to the evaluation form and resent to the commission.

2. Report - Farmland Preservation Program.

Oakridge Dairy plans to expand the calving barn on 8 Hoffman Road which is on preserved farmland. Oakridge also plans to remove an old chicken coop, and two other old barns along Meadow Brook Road.

3. Report - Open Space Preservation Program.

There are no updates on the potential purchase of the 20-acre property off Somers Road by the State of Connecticut. John asked for the support of the commission to approach a property owner of a landlocked parcel off Crystal Lake Road about the State open space preservation program to see if there is any interest. The commission supported the request. Chairman Quarno asked if there are any further updates on the previously discussed 16 Penfield Avenue, John reported there is no additional information.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 25-26 Budget & Expenditure Update:

Nothing new to report, the fiscal year has reset.

2. Approval of July 8, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (GAGE) TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2025, AS WRITTEN.

3. Correspondence/Discussion:

a. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee – Update.

Commissioner Harford reported the committee removed five buckets of trash from the Hockanum River on West Road and signs have been added to enforce no motorized vehicles. The experiment with tarping knotweed is still in progress and the hope is the effects are now reaching the roots. The Trails Committee will reach out to the Public Works department for assistance in maintaining the area as well. Furthermore, bridge repair will begin on a trail on Windermere. Tom Palshaw, member of the Trails Committee, entered the conversation and noted the public participates in maintaining more trailway in that area, so the committee hopes to maintain the full trail in the future.

Commissioner Harford and Tom Palshaw reported an upcoming geology event at Crystal Ridge Trail. Tom also offered information about an upcoming bridge repair on the Highlands Trail. Commissioner Harford reported a bridge on the trail near the radio station still needs repair. Tom noted the GIS map needs updating on the Windermere Trail, to reflect the new trail that does not go on the radio station property. Lastly, the Trails Committee will be attending the August 23rd Farmers Market.

b. Community Outreach – Ellington Farmer's Market. Saturday, August 30th 9am-12pm.

Two poster boards are prepared for the market, alongside a banner, and other table offerings for the event. The Town's recycling coordinator will also provide a brochure.

- c. CT Department of Transportation State Project No. 0171-0518 – Wider Edge Line Pavement Markings on Horizontal Curves.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (ZIELFELDER JR.) SECONDED (GAGE) TO ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley DuBois, Recording Clerk