

**Town of Wethersfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of the May 14, 2014 Meeting**

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Chairman Rick Baldoni called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM in the Town Hall Conference Room, which was attended by Commissioners Rick Doran, Bill Knapp, Ralph Moyer, Linda Neilson, Robert Pulford, and Rebecca Zalznock. Also in attendance was Donna Hemmann of the Town Council.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes for April 9, 2014 were reviewed and on a Motion by B. Knapp, Seconded by B. Pulford, and approved unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Chairman Baldoni previously provided the results of the Commission's open space inventory to K. Bagley, but has not heard of the status of her planned meeting with the Engineering Department to process the Open Space Inventory into the Town's GIS database. After a brief discussion regarding the addition of other open space parcels to our Inventory, the following Motion was presented:

MOTION (by R. Doran, Seconded by R. Moyer): For the Conservation Commission to amend the Open Space Inventory to include parcels located west of Interstate 91.

The Motion carried with a unanimous vote. R. Doran will contact K. Bagley to request the Tax Assessor Office to provide the Commission with a collection of property cards for all undeveloped parcels located west of Interstate 91; and to determine if Ms. Bagley has the template of the form used by the Commission for the inspections of open space for the Inventory.

- b. R. Doran provided an update on the status of information he has been gathering regarding the Town's potential participation in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service farmland preservation program. Mr. Doran and K. Bagley have attended a meeting with the Town Manager and Phil Chester of the Farm Preservation program and discussed the variables required for the Town to move forward in the program (such as soil testing of potential farmland parcels and the formation of an Agricultural Commission). Mr. Doran will continue in discussions with the Town Manager and others, and continue to gather additional information. The Commission discussed with D. Hemmann the procedures required to expand the name of the Conservation Commission to include an Agricultural Commission. Ms. Hemmann will discuss this with K. Bagley and the Town Manager.
- c. The Commission discussed the concept of re-establishing a voter-approved Land Acquisition Fund in time for the November 2014 election, raised by B. Knapp at the April 2014 meeting. D. Hemmann mentioned that the Town may have a separate Agricultural Fund, and will look into that possibility. The Commission discussed the use of Land Acquisition Fund monies for the purchase of farmland should a parcel become available; as well as the possibility of preparing a Referendum in time for the November 2014 ballot.
- d. The Commission previously agreed to re-name the "Heritage Way Trail" which conflicts with a "Heritage Trail" self-guided walking tour planned for Old Wethersfield. After a brief discussion on potential names, the following Motion was presented:

MOTION (by R. Pulford, Seconded by B. Knapp): For the Conservation Commission to change the name of "Heritage Way Trail" to the "Wethersfield Bike Trail".

The Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Baldoni adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM, so moved by B. Knapp and seconded by R. Duran.

Respectfully submitted by

Rebecca M. Zalznock, Secretary