



**CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Special Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2021 Special Meeting**

1. Call to Order: In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, this meeting is being held remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform and is open for public viewing using the login information provided on the posted agenda.

Meeting called to order at 7:13 pm

2. Roll Call & Announcements: Members present: Christine Altman, Tom Kalinowski, Dan McGuinness and staff Jeremy Leifert

Members Absent: Robert DeMallie

Members of the public: None

3. Minutes:
 - a. March 11, 2021 Regular Meeting: **Motion to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2021 regular meeting as presented was made by C. Altman and seconded D. McGuinness. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - b. April 8, 2021 Regular Meeting: **Motion to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2021 regular meeting as presented was made by C. Altman and seconded D. McGuinness. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. New Business:

- a. Future meeting format discussion

The commission and staff discussed changes upcoming to executive orders on remote meetings. The commission will need to offer "hybrid" meetings, where the commission is in Council Chambers for the meeting in person, but a remote zoom meeting option is still offered for those commission members and citizens that aren't comfortable attending in person. Discussion ensued on the setup and procedure for the hybrid meetings.

5. Old Business:

- a. Continued discussion of short term and long term projects and commission goals
 - J. Leifert went over possible sources of funding for planning and development of food forest properties. Brief discussion took place over the funding sources and the best areas to look for city for city properties to develop. D. McGuinness suggested contacting the Northwest Conservation District for support and ideas.

- Further discussion took place on a future City Open space plan. Discussion to continue after open space property reviews are complete. J. Leifert to send out open space parcel review packets to continue with site reviews.
- Discussion of the possible acquisition of the Leoni property on Winsted Road continued. City staff have recently resumed discussion and negotiation for the property, and discussions are ongoing. The City and owners are discussing a sale price and responsibility for surveys/property cleanup, etc. The commission also discussed potential use of open space account funding for the acquisition.

b. Continued discussion/schedule for open space parcel inventory and data collection

J. Leifert stated that based on previous meeting discussion, the only holdup is for staff to send packets out for the property reviews. They should be out in the next week or two for members.

c. April 24, 2021 Earth Day Cleanup summary discussion

The commission discussed the turnout for the cleanup. The commission was very happy with the turnout, and discussed the types of groups that showed up and certain cleanup areas.

6. Communications:

None

7. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting by D. McGuinness and seconded by C. Altman. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm

Jeremy Leifert, Asst. City Planner
Staff to Conservation Commission