



**CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2022 Regular Meeting**

1. Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

Members present in person in Room 215 of Torrington City Hall unless otherwise noted.

Roll Call & Announcements: Members present: Tom Kalinowski, Steven Ivain, Michael Kaneb, Dan McGuinness, and Nate Nardi-Cyrus – Assistant City Planner
Via ZOOM: Christine Altman

Members Absent: None

Members of the public: George Craig

2. Minutes:

a. June 21, 2022 Regular Meeting

The record of meeting was distributed to the members. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom K, seconded by Steven I. All members voted to approve the minutes.

3. New Business:

a. Natural resources inventory web map

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus presented on municipal natural resources inventories (NRIs) and how they can be an important step toward completing an Open Space Plan. An NRI is a collection of all natural resources information for a municipality, including both mapping and a descriptive narrative to accompany those maps. Mr. Nardi-Cyrus suggested he obtain an ArgGIS Online license to create an online NRI, similar to what New Paltz, NY did:

<https://newpaltzencb.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=5d9facd3b04c45469a89a66084d9ce7a>. The completed NRI will qualify as a Sustainable CT certification action for the City and will likely provide cost savings on contracting a planner to create an Open Space Plan or other conservation projects down the road. A motion was made to authorize Mr. Nardi-Cyrus to work on this project was made by Dan M and seconded by Tom K. All members voted to authorize.

4. Old Business:

a. Continued discussion items:

1. Food Forests – possible project locations and funding

Additional discussion took place regarding the location of the next food forest. Likely City-owned locations still include Bannon St. and Jackson St. parks but the members on the land trust board will follow-up to see if there are other locations on their fee-owned properties. The commission agreed that this project should involve collaboration between the City (Conservation Commission & Parks and Recreation), land trust, Torrington Trails Network, and the conservation district. It was suggested that the group should schedule and host a roundtable on this topic for this coming fall. In the interim, Tom K will follow-up with Brett to get his opinion on food forests at the parks on Bannon St. or Jackson St. and whether or not he would be supportive.

2. City open space parcel inventory and data collection

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus has not yet followed up with Mr. Leifert regarding this project. The commission shared their knowledge and agreed that field visits should resume in September/October, either during the week or on weekends.

3. City open space plan progress, funding, and development

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus did a little research on potential funding opportunities but did not find anything obvious. He will keep his eye out on this and, in the meantime, will work on the NRI.


5. Communications:

a. Conservation Commission website page edits and cleanup

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus just received access to update the website and will add new members/staff and add new/fix existing broken web links. He will circulate the updated page to the commission for comment prior to the next meeting.

6. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

 7-25-22
Nate Nardi-Cyrus, Assistant City Planner
Staff to Conservation Commission
Cc: City Clerk, Mayor's Office