



CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2021 Regular 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 6:34 pm

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

Members Absent: Tom Kalinowski

Members of the public: 1 public attendee

3. Minutes:

- a. November 12, 2020 Regular Meeting: **Motion to accept the minutes of the November 12, 2020 regular meeting as presented was made by D. McGuinness and seconded by R. DeMallie. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. New Business:

- a. Discussion of Future Project and Goals for 2021

Discussion ensued with commission members and staff about potential project for the upcoming year. Members discussed the value of a joint meeting with the Torrington Trails Network. J. Leifert updated the commission on potential trail work at the John Brown homestead and Five Point property off John Brown Road and University Drive. D. McGuinness would like to explore possible future trail connections with adjacent Heritage Land Trust property. The commission discussed possible uses of existing town parks and currently undeveloped smaller open space parcels as "food forests". J. Leifert will research and look for potential grant opportunities. The commission also discussed the possibility of creating an unofficial "volunteer coordinator" for volunteers on conservation projects and rotate between members periodically. Discussion will continue on these items at upcoming meetings.

- b. April 24, 2021 Earth Day Cleanup planning discussion

The commission held a brief discussion on planning for the scheduled Earth Day Cleanup to take place on Saturday, April 24, 2021. The commission agreed that we could not hold an in-person gathering at Coe Park, and discussed options. It was agreed that there would be a remotely coordinated cleanup with J. Leifert as the prime contact. Discussion also occurred over how to conduct outreach for the event, and this discussion would continue at the February meeting. J. Leifert stated that there are some route maps that needed to be updated, but he could set up any equipment or cleanup supply pickups at City Hall prior to the event. The discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

5. Old Business:

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

The commission discussed the status of the distribution of data collection packets with staff. J. Leifert stated that he is still working on packets and will get them out as they are completed. Each packet will have data sheets, maps of the parcels and property deeds. The initial set of packets that were discussed in previous meetings will be distributed prior to next meeting, and the next set will be sent out as they are finished. The commission would like to set the completion of this project as priority as well as to begin research on a City open space plan.

6. Communications:

None

7. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting by D. McGuinness and seconded by R. DeMallie. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned Altman at 7:11 pm

 1-29-21

Jeremy Leifert, Asst. City Planner
Staff to Conservation Commission
Cc: City Clerk, Mayor's Office