



**CITY OF TORRINGTON  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2022 Regular Meeting**

1. Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm

Members present in person in Council Chambers of Torrington City Hall unless otherwise noted.

2. Roll Call & Announcements: Members present: Dan McGuinness and staff Jeremy Leifert  
Via ZOOM: Michael Kaneb, Christine Altman – Chair (6:43 via zoom), Tom Kalinowski (7:04)

Members Absent: None

Members of the public: Stephen Ivain

Mr. Leifert noted at the start of the meeting that quorum had not been established. The meeting will be for discussion only with no decisions until quorum is established.

3. Minutes:

- a. December 9, 2021 Regular Meeting

Review of the minutes was skipped temporarily due to lack of quorum

4. New Business:

- a. SustainableCT – Section 3.4, Develop an Open Space Plan, discussion

Mr. Leifert discussed the SustainableCT program with the Commission, specifically with regard to the points that could be achieved under the open space mapping section toward the City's "bronze" designation. The Land Use office is working with an intern and the engineering office to compile the maps for credit. The information on the section is being distributed to the commissioners as an update and to generate discussion on the section. Mr. McGuinness asked about the benefits of the program. Mr. Leifert stated that for many types of state funding, SustainableCT communities are favored in review of applications. This item will remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Ivain asked a question about what is to be included in the maps. Mr. Leifert went over the list of mapping requirements.

5. Old Business:

- a. Discussion with residents on solar project off Wimbledon Gate N., Highland Avenue and Rossi Road in Torrington and Litchfield

Mr. Leifert stated that there were not many changes to the draft memo from the December 2021 meeting to this one. However, new documents have just been posted on the CT Siting Council website with Silicon

Ranch's answers to the interrogatories from the council. He stated that he had not had time to review, but will update the memo based on them and other comments for the February meeting. He then went over the Q&A from the previous meeting.

Mr. Leifert noted that Chairwoman Altman signed onto zoom at 6:43, establishing quorum. The Commission returned to discussion of the December 9, 2021 meeting minutes.

**MOTION by Mr. McGuiness to approve the 12/9/21 minutes, seconded by Mr. Kaneb, motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Leifert resumed going over the Q&A from the memo, including communications with the Torrington Area Health District and Fire Department and Commission member comments. Also included were details on the decommissioning plan for the site.

b. Continued discussion items:

1. Food Forests – possible project locations and funding

The commission discussed the assistance from the Northwest Conservation District on a grant application for establishment of food forest sites in the City. The commission discussed logistics behind the application and possible sites and locations for food forest improvements. The District needs a letter of support from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Leifert will prepare the document for signature and Chairwoman Altman will stop at City Hall to sign.

**MOTION by Mr. McGuiness to approve the submittal of a letter of support for the Northwest Conservation District grant application, seconded by Mr. Kaneb, motion carried unanimously.**

2. Leoni property acquisition progress update

Mr. Leifert informed the Commission that he had spoken with Vic Muschell, Corporation Counsel, and the acquisition of the Leoni Property was finalized just this afternoon. There will be future follow up discussions with the Commission on the plans for the property for conservation or recreational use.

3. City open space parcel inventory and data collection

Mr. Leifert related the discussion back to SustainableCT and the mapping requirements. Updating the maps with the required information will net some points toward the certification. The commission will schedule site walks to continue review of open space properties as the weather allows.

4. Trails grant and City trails/greenway development update

There is no update to the recreational trails grant application that was sent in November 2021. Review and awards are still pending on the applications submitted to DEEP.

5. City open space plan progress, funding and development

No updates from staff. Funding is needed for this project as well.

6. Communications:

None

7. Adjournment:

**Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. McGuiness and seconded by Mr. Kalinowski. Motion passed unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.



1-25-22

Jeremy Liefert, Asst. City Planner  
Staff to Conservation Commission

*Cc: City Clerk, Mayor's Office*