



**CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2022 Regular Meeting**

1. Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

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

2. Roll Call & Announcements: Members present: Staff Jeremy Leifert
Via ZOOM: Christine Altman – Chair, Dan McGuiness, Michael Kaneb

Members Absent: Tom Kalinowski

Members of the public: Stephen Ivain, Erin McKenna

3. Minutes:

a. January 20, 2022 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Ms. Altman and seconded by Mr. Kaneb to accept the minutes of January 20, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business:

None

5. Old Business:

a. Final review and acceptance of draft Conservation Commission comments on approved solar project off Wimbledon Gate N., Highland Avenue and Rossi Road in Torrington and Litchfield

Mr. Leifert stated that final draft changes had been made to the comment document due to comments submitted to staff by commissioner Kalinowski and as a result of additional documentation submitted to the siting council record.

Since all members were attending via ZOOM, the two members of the public in attendance in the meeting room introduced themselves. Mr. Ivain reiterated concern from previous meetings over the overall plan. He also posed questions on the letter submitted and the process. Mr. Leifert explained the siting council process, and that the letter will go to DEEP and the Siting Council as an advisory document to state the position of the Conservation Commission on the project. The main concerns of Mr. Ivain are with runoff, erosion controls and groundwater concerns. The timing and responsibilities of erosion control inspections were discussed. Ms. McKenna asked question on what changes were made to the draft memo since the December meeting. Mr. Leifert went over those changes, specific to the decommissioning plan and stormwater management plan.

A motion was made by Mr. McGuiness and seconded by Ms. Altman to accept the language in the draft memo and recommend submittal by staff to the appropriate reviewing agencies. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Leifert provided an update on the progress with the mapping for the SustainableCT section on open space. He described the mapping that was being worked on with the engineering department. Ms. Altman asked what type of land was being shown on the map. Mr. Leifert noted that it is permanently protected open space only, such as City owned open space, permanent conservation easements, land trust property, and state forest and park land, but not PA-490 land since it is not under permanent protection. Mr. Leifert noted that the mapping is in progress and there is an intern in the land use office working on it.

c. Continued discussion items:

1. Food Forests – possible project locations and funding

The Northwest Conservation District submitted a grant application for funding for a food forest project, and we are waiting on word about the grant. There are no further updates on this

2. City open space parcel inventory and data collection

The land use intern will be digitizing all the previous hand-written forms. The commission discussed scheduling of further site walks on parcels.

3. Trails grant and City trails/greenway development update

Mr. Leifert stated that due to the competitiveness and relatively low amount of money dedicated to the program this year, the City was not awarded the recreational trails grant for this round. DEEP recommended other funding sources that may be of interest, and we will look into those.

7. 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 Ms. Altman and seconded by Mr. Kaneb. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.


3-4-22

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