



**CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2023 Regular Meeting**

1. Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

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

Roll Call & Announcements: Members present: Steve Ivain, Dan McGuinness, Karen Svetz, and Christine Altman (Chair).
Via ZOOM: None
Members Absent: Tom Kalinowski and Michael Kaneb
Staff: Nate Nardi-Cyrus – Assistant City Planner
Members of the public: Tom Kandefer and Keefu Winter

2. Minutes:

a. January 19, 2023 Regular Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Ivain, seconded by Dan McGuinness. All commissioners voted aye.

3. New Business:

a. Orphaned TTC Properties

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus reviewed several properties for conservation value that might be transferred to the City from the Torrington Tax Collector, because they cannot be sold in a tax sale. Representatives from the land trust will follow-up on certain property to establish ownership. Recommendations from this discussion will be passed along to the Mayor when determining how to use/dispose of such properties.

b. Legislative Updates

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus will e-mail list of pending legislation to commissioners.

c. 53 McDermott Ave P&Z Application Review

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus explained the application for a new recreational cannabis location, which could be an important area for trail connectivity between the Red Mountain Trail and McDermott Ave. Mr. Nardi-Cyrus requested the Commission make a motion to request a trail and parking easement across the property, if they agreed with his assessment. Ms. Altman made a motion to recommend

the designation of a trail easement and parking area to be included in the Site Plan/Special Exception application for 53 McDermott Street, Mr. Ivain seconded. All commissioners voted aye.

d. Silicon Ranch Environmental Intervention

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus explained the environmental intervention related to the CT Siting Council and CT DEEP's review of the large solar farm proposed for lots 217/004/074 & 217/004/016. A discussion ensued related the merits of the proposal, although local land use boards are not directly involved in the process at this time. Mr. Nardi-Cyrus will send out the Intervention documentation to commissioners.

4. Old Business:

a. Red Mountain Trail Update

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus explained that the application was submitted, and the City is awaiting the State's decision.

b. Update on Klug Hill Special Exception

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus updated the commission on new proposed modifications to the approved site plan for 232 Klug Hill road and how that relates to the conditions of their approval. The commission discussed the project and asked to be updated.

c. 2023 food forest planting prep / Food security

The Commission discussed potential food forests sites for 2023. Mr. Nardi-Cyrus explained that the NWCD is interested in doing a small food producing rain garden for the parking lot at the corner of Main Street and Elm Street. Besse Park food forest might be on hold, considering the High School work and vacancy in Park and Rec Director. Commission started to explore the idea of doing food forests on small urban lots that are not designated as parkland. Mr. Nardi-Cyrus will follow-up with the City GIS person to create a map of such sites for the Commission's review.

d. World Clean-up Day / Earth Day planning

The Commission agreed the event should be held 4/22 at Coe Park. Mr. Nardi-Cyrus will follow-up with Parks and Rec about delivering a dumpster and coordinating activities from their property. Red Mountain Trail clean-up will be planned for the Fall, during the annual clean-up the world event. Commission discussed potential clean-up sites for earth day. Mr. Nardi-Cyrus will follow-up with commissions to identify problem areas. Ms. Altman will help Mr. Nardi-Cyrus to identify donations for lunch.

e. OSI/NRI Progress

Mr. Nardi-Cyrus updated the commission on inspections and status of projects. Ms. Altman requested we coordinate site visits with commissioners during the 2023 season. Commissioners scheduled a site visit for April 26th. Mr. Nardi-Cyrus will follow-up with maps and datasheets for those inspections. Future inspections can be scheduled during future meetings.

5. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan McGuiness, seconded by Steve Ivain. All commissioners voted aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Nate Nardi-Cyrus, Assistant City Planner
Staff to Conservation Commission