



**CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2019 Regular Meeting**

1. Call to Order: 6:32 pm, Land Use Office, Room 324, 140 Main Street, Torrington, CT.
2. Roll Call & Announcements: Members: Tomasz Kalinowski, Christine Altman, Jim Fedorich, Dan McGuinness, Robert DeMallie & staff Jeremy Leifert
3. New Business:
 - a. Discussion on open space parcel inventory and data collection – J. Leifert distributed a draft data collection sheet for members to use on visits to City-owned open space parcels. Discussion ensued on items contained in the draft. Also discussed was the purpose for gathering the information. J. Leifert stated that the Commission should consider expanding on the open space section of the City's POCD and draft a full open space plan for the City should funding become available. The data gathered would be used for planning purposes in deciding future uses of the parcels.

Potential uses for some of the smaller parcels was also discussed. Commission members expressed concerns over conducting the surveys alone. Discussion ensued, and it was decided to create a “sign-up” that could be sent out to members, likely in the form of an online or email based sign-up. For most parcels, members would inspect in pairs, and we would attempt to schedule an entire commission walk for larger parcels.
 - b. City owned open space encroachments discussion – past issues with adjacent property owners near open space parcels was discussed. There are instances of adjacent owners expanding lawns into open space parcels or placing structures in City parcels without permits. The Commission requested that J. Leifert speak with Corporation Counsel to begin discussions on a process for dealing with encroachments.

The Commission also briefly discussed the “Clean Up World” event scheduled to take place on September 21. The Commission requested that J. Leifert reach out to people that have been active with the event in the past to see if activities can be set up. Discussions will continue at the September 12 Commission meeting. J. Leifert was also asked to find out if there is a budget line for conservation outreach.

4. Communications:
 - a. *Connecticut Wildlife* – May/June Issue – not discussed, will remain on next agenda
5. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm