



**CITY OF TORRINGTON  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2020 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 6:33 pm

2. Roll Call & Announcements: Members present: Tomasz Kalinowski, Dan McGuinness, Robert DeMallie, Jim Fedorich, Christine Altman & staff Jeremy Leifert.

Members Absent: None

Members of the public: No members of the public logged into the remote meeting.

3. Minutes:

- a. April 16, 2020 Regular Meeting: **Motion to accept the minutes of the April 16, 2020 regular meeting as presented was made by T. Kalinowski and seconded by J. Fedorich. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. New Business:

- a. Preliminary Review of Besse Pond cleanup project for possible advisory comment

The Commission discussed the items that were distributed that are part of a recently submitted application to the Inland Wetlands Commission (IWC). J. Leifert stated that the IWC will be accepting the application and hearing details of the project from the applicant at the May 19 IWC meeting, and that the earliest the IWC could make a decision on the application would be June 16. Discussion ensued on particulars of the project. Consensus of the commission was to go over the project review checklist that was used for previous project reviews and discuss at the next meeting. J. Leifert will draft an application comment memo for Conservation Commission review at the next meeting.

5. Old Business:

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

No action has occurred on this item since the April Commission meeting, but staff will send out a list of smaller parcels that can be done by single commission members. Larger parcels that need to be done in groups will be held off until the COVID-19 threat subsides. J. Leifert will drive by the smaller parcels to confirm access and contact the commission members to assign review parcels.

b. 2020 DEEP Open Space Acquisition Grant Round discussion

The commission continued discussion on the potential of applying for state land acquisition grant money to for acquisition of the “Leoni” parcel off of Winsted Road near Harris/Machuga Drive. Commissioners reviewed some of the documentation from the previous attempt at purchasing the property in 2008, including the appraisal. Discussions ensued on the amount of money in the open space budget and how to most wisely spend this money, which is specifically reserved for open space protection and education. Discussions ensued on other potential “target” properties for open space acquisition and the comparisons with the Leoni property. Discussions also ensued on costs of an appraisal and the current asking price for the property. Staff will communicate with the property owner and decide on beginning the grant application prior to the next meeting.

6. Communications: None

7. Adjournment:

**Motion to adjourn the meeting made by D. McGuinness and seconded by J. Fedorich. Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm

  
5-21-20  
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Jeremy Leifert, Asst. City Planner  
Staff to Conservation Commission  
*Cc: City Clerk, Mayor's Office*