

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Burlington Conservation Commission  
December 21, 2016

**Call to Order:** Chairman John Hebert called Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Members present: Tom Finan, Richard Miller, Tom Roberge and Jackie Shadford. Not Present: Gary Milliger and Paul Rochford.

**Review/Accept Minutes of** Nov 16, 2016 Regular Meeting approved and accepted Miller/Finan) (5-0).

**Citizen Comment:** None

**New Business:** Meetings held in 2017 will be the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm except for the months of July and August.

**Old Business:**

- a. **Covey Road Parcel Acquisition:** The City of New Britain has recently offered the Town of Burlington first refusal to purchase the 15-Acre Covey Road property since a private developer has also expressed interest in the same property. The Commission members' unanimously agreed that we should encourage the Town to close on the property now. The land for sale includes the Spruce Bog that is in close proximity to current open space and the land may also provide an economic resource toward the future development plans of Burlington Center's "Main Street" from Library Lane to Covey Road. Chairman Hebert will submit a letter to the BOS & BOF in support of the purchase of the property.
- b. **Right to Farm Ordinance:** The proposed Right to Farm Ordinance is currently in the hands of the BOS and Ordinance Committee. Upon passage and before it is presented and adopted by the Town of Burlington the CC would like to make sure that the version they originally presented has no changes. Commission members will attend outside meetings.
- c. **Building for the Future of Burlington by Preserving Farmland and Open Space:** Discussion concerning the protection of Water Company and State of CT lands within the town.
- d. **Municipal option tax reduction programs for CT Farmers.** Review of towns, which have adopted tax abatement policies for agriculture in addition to 490 Exemptions. By next meeting, each member will research other towns that have adopted enabling tax policies for exemptions on Agricultural Structure or Farm Machinery and Equipment. The CC interest in farming initiatives is to help retain our rural character, quality of life, as well as promoting economic and environmental sustainability.

**Other:**

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council Annual Spring Conference will be held March 18, 2017 at Wesleyan College, Middletown, CT.

**Adjournment:** At 8:35 pm, a motion was made and accepted to adjourn (Miller/Roberge).

Next Meeting Date: January 18, 2016

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Shadford substituting for Secretary, Paul Rochford