

Burlington Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 19 – Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
7:00 PM

1. Call to Order: Chairman John Hebert called to order at 7:03 PM. Present: Tom Finan, Mitchel Kvedar, Richard Miller, Jackie Shadford, Melanie Wilhelm Absent: Tom Roberge Guest: First Selectman Ted Shafer
2. Review/Accept Minutes: Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2020 (Miller/Kvedar). Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept Meeting Minutes from December 15, 2020 (Miller/Finan).
3. Citizens Comments: None
4. Communications: None
5. Election of Officers: A Motion was made and seconded to nominate Melanie Wilhelm as Chairman (Shadford/Finan), passed unanimously. After discussion, it was unanimously voted to appoint John Hebert to be Assistant Chair (Miller/Shadford), Jackie Shadford, Secretary (Miller/Finan) and Mitchel Kvedar as Assistant Secretary (Wilhelm/Shadford). Melanie Wilhem assumed the position of Chairman and led remainder of meeting.
6. Old Business:
  - a. Municipal Tax Reduction Program for Farmers: First Selectman, Ted Shafer encouraged CC to engage in the Selectman's Workshop on the 2021-2022 Budget that will be taking place until the end of February. Starting March 1st, budget recommendations will be turned over to the Board of Finance for deliberation.
  - b. Johnnycake Mountain Recreation Facility: A Johnnycake Mountain Park Advisory Commission is seeking resident volunteers that was recently established by the Board of Selectmen at their January 12, 2021 meeting. The deadline to submit a completed volunteer questionnaire is January 31, 2021. Topography and Plans are available on the Town Website.
  - c. Open Space/Land Acquisition: Ted Shafer updated the Commission on the Library Lane acquisition. If the land is sold for development in the future, the proceeds of that future sale will go to the land acquisition fund. This has been adopted formally by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance. The CC has tabled discussion until their February meeting requesting specific funds for Land Acquisition for 2021/2022 Town Budget.

- d. Recycling: Shadford contacted Rob Jorgenson, Chairman of the Solid Waste Committee. He encouraged our groups to work together on short and long term plans to manage waste within our community. According to Scott Tharau, Public Works Director, it cost \$80 a ton to recycle household goods since the 2018 collapse of southeast Asian Markets. One reason our recycled goods were rejected was because they contained too many trash contaminants. Since 1991, the state of Connecticut has mandated that municipalities recycle. But now it costs more to recycle than dispose of trash. These laws and regulations must be revisited. Currently our Recycling goes to Murphy Road in Hartford (not MIRA). The MIRA Facility in Hartford is being phased out do to aging infrastructure and at times solid waste has been hauled out of State to distant landfills. Burlington solid waste is brought to Bristol Resource Recovery Facility where it is incinerated and used to generate electricity. Although we are positioned better than most towns, we need to acknowledge this state-wide environmental crises and look to solutions in solving this problem within our community. Shadford has been tasked to contact Executive Director Mark Bobman of BRRF and ask for assistance in improving waste management and recycling in our town.
- e. Sustainable CT: Kvedar lost wifi connection and report tabled until February meeting.
- f. Earth Day 2021: Shadford spoke to Tom Roberge of Hard Rain Farm and he agreed to have an Open House at his farm depending on Covid Restrictions. He is also willing to do a presentations elsewhere on starting seeds for your home garden.

7. New Business: None

8. Adjourn: Motion made (Miller) and seconded (Shadford). Motion passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:37 PM.

Next Virtual Meeting: February 16, 2021. Details to follow.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Shadford, Secretary