

Burlington Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Feb 16, 2021 – Virtual Meeting via Zoom
7:00 PM

1. Call to Order: Chairman Melanie Wilhelm called to order at 7:26 PM. Present: Tom Finan, John Hebert, Richard Miller, Jackie Shadford, Melanie Wilhelm Absent: Tom Roberge, Mitchel Kvedar.
2. Review/Accept Minutes: Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2021 (Finan/Miller).
3. Citizens Comments: None
4. Communications: None
5. Old Business:
 - a. Municipal Tax Reduction Program for Farmers: Chairman Wilhelm contacted Town Assessor Beth Paul early in February concerning eligible PA 490 farmers who could qualify for an additional Municipal Optional Tax exemption on farm buildings if an ordinance was voted into law by the Town of Burlington. Assessor Paul responded that she only knew of one farm that would currently be eligible and that she would need to do further research.
Commission members questioned half a dozen farms that might qualify for the exemption. It is important to find out what the impact might be on the town's tax base in order for the BOS and BOF to consider the adoption of such an ordinance. Chairman Wilhelm will contact the Assessor and request updated data on certain farms.
 - b. Johnnycake Mountain Recreation Facility: The Board of Selectman on February 9, 2021, appointed a number of residents/town staff to the Johnnycake Mountain Park Advisory Commission. Tom Finan will continue to update our Commission on their activities.
 - c. Open Space/Land Acquisition: Finan and Wilhelm presented a draft letter to be sent to the BOS/BOF requesting \$15,000 funds for Land Acquisition for the 2021/2022 Town Budget. A motion was made and second (Shadford/Finan) and voted unanimously to have Chairman Wilhem send the letter.
 - d. Recycling: Shadford sent an email to Executive Director Mark Bobman of Bristol Resource Recovery Facility for assistance regarding ideas the Commission can

implement in order to improve waste management and recycling in our town. The Director has yet to respond to this request.

Wilhelm suggested that we try to promote ways to educate the public with information concerning various acceptable recyclable materials and their disposal. The greatest concern now is recycling materials must be clean, lest they be rejected and diverted to the landfill.

- e. Sustainable CT: Kvedar was unable to attend the meeting.
 - f. Earth Day 2021: Shadford suggested we try to make a video with Hard Rain Farm for early spring release. She also suggested we have a children's photo contest which could be posted on the town web-site. Categories might include Burlington's Landscape/Waterscape; Plants; Wildlife; Cultural/Historic buildings; Farm and Animals. Wilhelm will speak to the town webmaster to see if this is possible.
- 6. New Business: Wilhelm suggested shortened updates on Old Business Agenda items in order to spend more time discussing action plans, one goal at a time. Wilhelm will contact Kvedar (liaison on Sustainable CT) before next meeting for a suggested topic.
 - 7. Adjourn: Motion made (Finan) and seconded (Hebert). Motion passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:41 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Shadford, Secretary