

Burlington Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 20, 2021 – Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
7:00 PM

1. Call to Order: Chairman Melanie Wilhelm called to order at 7:05 PM. Present: Tom Finan, John Hebert, Mitchel Kvedar, Richard Miller, Jackie Shadford, Melanie Wilhelm. Absent: Tom Roberge. Guests: First Selectman Ted Shafer, Dwight Harris, Johnnycake Mountain Assoc.
2. Review/Accept Minutes: MOTION made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept Meeting Minutes from March 16, 2021 (Finan/Miller).
3. Citizens Comments: None
4. Communications: None
5. Old Business:
  - a. Municipal Tax Reduction Program for Farmers:

Chairman Wilhelm will give a presentation to the Board of Selectman on March 23, 2021, to encourage the town to consider the adoption of an optional tax exemption ordinance for farm buildings. Shafer said the next step is for the BOS to resume talks with the BOF and Tax Assessor for an agreement to be included in the proposed 2021-2022 Town Budget. Shafer also indicated there are other town groups competing for tax abatements such as the Senior Citizens, Veterans and the Fire Department. If the Town agrees to accept the \$12,900 yearly tax liability from the tax rolls, the procedure would need a new ordinance and would have to be voted on by the general public at a town meeting. An example of the Town of Canton's ordinance was given to the First Selectman for a review by Burlington's Town Attorney.
  - b. Johnnycake Mountain Recreation Facility:

Chairman Wilhelm was asked to do a presentation by the Johnnycake Mountain Park Advisory Commission at an upcoming meeting scheduled for April 24. As Chairman she will include conservation ideas CC members feel should be considered in the park design. Wilhelm will send CC members a preview of the presentation for their input before the presentation to the JMPAC meeting. All CC members are encouraged to fill out the Town Park Survey as individual residents before the closing date on April 26th. Shafer reported that the resignation of the Town's Land use member on the JMPAC will not be replaced by Tom Finan as requested by the CC but will remain vacant. Tom Finan met with tour leader Karen Gietz for a walk/tour of the Johnnycake Farm so that the newly formed

Advisory Commissioners would become familiar with the grounds, topography and habitat of the almost 60 acre park.

c. Open Space/Land Acquisition:

No update. CC members recognized First Selectman Ted Shafer for his commitment in acquiring the most open space land in perhaps the town's history during his tenure as First Selectman. Miller also encouraged Shafer to keep negotiations open with the City of New Britain concerning the acquisition of the New Britain Fresh Air Camp/Camp Shady on Covey Road.

d. Sustainable CT:

Kvedar shared a video with an overview of Sustainable CT and its purpose in helping towns participate in the many municipal programs available in order to encourage sustainable practices in their community. Burlington is currently at a Bronze Certification Level. The CC has agreed to work towards a Silver Certification for the fall of 2022. Kvedar will arrange for a representative from Sustainable CT to lead a CC workshop in June or during the summer months to help the Commission narrow in on a program that we can act upon in the near future.

e. Earth Day 2021:

Members agreed to postpone Earth Day Celebration until the fall or Tavern Day because of Covid restrictions.

6. New Business:

CC member Mitchel Kvedar was acknowledged in the CT Forest and Parks Magazine. Wilhelm and Shafer will put their heads together as to how the CC can engage in outdoor meetings or hybrid formats during Covid restrictions and concerns. Details to follow.

7. Adjourn:

Motion made (Miller) and seconded (Finan). Motion passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:29 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 18, 2021. Details to follow.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Shadford, Secretary