

Burlington Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 16, 2021
Burlington Town Hall, Senior Center
7:00 PM

1. Call to Order: Chairman Melanie Wilhelm called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Present: John Hebert, Tom Finan, Richard Miller, Tom Roberge, Jackie Shadford, Melanie Wilhelm. Absent: Mitchell Kvedar. Guests: Dwight Harris of Johnnycake Associates, John Kirschner.
2. Review/Accept Minutes: Motion made by Miller to accept minutes with clarification to Open Space Acquisition referring to two separate parcels on Covey Road which should have been included in discussion of the 15 acres (contains the Black Spruce Bog owned by the City of New Britain ref: CC Minutes Dec 21, 2016), seconded by Hebert and passed unanimously to accept Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2021 with correction (Miller/Hebert).
3. Citizen Comments: John Kirschner attended meeting to listen as a resident of Johnnycake Mountain. Dwight Harris commented on the proposed master plan by the JCMP Design Committee. He felt that one week was not adequate time for the public nor the CC to review and respond to the plan after receiving a postcard in the mail and the planned public informational sessions on Nov 15 & 17th. The sessions only allowed three minutes of comment by each resident who could attend the meetings. The consensus of the CC members was that the BOS should delay the vote at scheduled meeting Nov 23rd to accept the master plan until the newly elected BOS is sworn into office December 1st. Although the CC approved the elements included in the plan, questions remain about the placement of the playing fields and the difference in elevation and suitable soils among other issues to be answered.
4. Communications: None
5. Old Business:
 - a. Johnnycake Mountain: Dwight Harris spoke about the history of Johnnycake Farm and the importance for his real estate company, Johnnycake Mountain Associates (JMA), to have set aside conservation easements within his working farm when he created residential housing neighborhoods during different phases of development. The purpose of the easements was to restrict development in order to protect the land's natural resources. The parcels of land were sold with deed restrictions to the individual landowners. Over the years these properties were sold, and the easements became contiguous larger parcels or corridors left in their natural state. A few of the easements JMA has maintained for

agricultural and environmental purposes and some for hiking trails such as the CT Blue dot trail.

Harris has reached out to the CC because he needs help to maintain the best future stewardship and monitoring of these parcels and to ensure compliance by the landowners. Harris said that if residents value the open space he has created, he would like a plan for others to take over or he will be forced to transfer licensees and agents to another entity. He also encourages the CC to create an inventory of open space and monitor any public easements throughout the town of Burlington.

The CC has decided to devote January 19, 2022, general meeting agenda solely to addressing conservation easements at JMA.

- b. Conservation Commission terms of office: Wilhelm will contact the BOS after the town election to request Mitchel Kvedar be removed from the Board and a new Future CC meetings will be in person on the third Wednesday of the month until further notice. Chairman Wilhelm tried to contact Mitchel Kvedar about his intention to stay on the board due to his many absences. Kvedar did not return communication request.
- c. Sustainability: No report.
- d. Recycling: No report.
- e. Pollinator Information: Hebert received bulk order of a pollinator brochure from NRCS. Wilhelm arranged for the Burlington Public Library to co-host Earth Day evening lecture on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, in the community room. Finan and Shadford will contact a speaker on "Planting for Pollinators in the Garden".
- f. Social Media: Finan has been actively posting wildlife and conservation information on FB Burlington CT Chatter.

6. New Business:

- a. Open space acquisition. The commission decided to discuss Covey Road (15 acres) and Camp Schade also on Covey Rd. after the New Year.
- b. Miller and Hebert attended a zoom meeting presented by the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NWCROG) on a new CT Forest Action Plan.

7. Adjourn: Motion made (Miller) and seconded (Hebert) to Adjourn. Motion passed unanimously to adjourn at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Shadford, Secretary

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 7pm Senior Center.

Note: December 2021 Cancelled.