

Burlington Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January, 15, 2019 - Burlington Town Hall

1. Call to Order: Chairman John Hebert at 7:00 pm. Present: Tom Finan John Hebert, Richard Miller Tom Roberge, Jackie Shadford, Melanie Wilhelm. Absent: Mitchel Kvedar
2. Review/Accept Minutes: Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept Meeting Minutes of Dec 18, 2019. (Miller/Roberge)
3. Citizen Comments: None
4. Communications: None
5. Election of Officers: Chairman Hebert asked for nominations to serve as Chairman, Assistant Chairman, Secretary and Assistant Secretary. Following discussion, on a motion made by Miller/Wilhelm, it was unanimously voted to appoint: John Hebert as Chairman, Tom Roberge as Assistant Chairman, Jackie Shadford as Secretary and Melanie Wilhelm as Assistant Secretary.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Municipal Tax Reduction for Farms: First Selectman, Ted Schafer provided a copy of the Conservation Commission's proposal to the BOF Meeting on December 18, 2019 to provide a Municipal Optional Tax Exemption program for local farmers. The BOS took no action at their meeting on December 10, 2019 when it was presented by CC members Wilhelm and Finan.
 - b. Johnnycake Mountain Park Recreation Facility: Awaiting Town posted Minutes of JMPR Committee scheduled meeting of June 25, 2019. CC has requested to be notified of said meetings. BOS Minutes indicate Master Plan nearing completion and anticipate Phase 1 bid documents will be ready Jan/Feb 2020, breaking ground Spring 2020 and final project to be completed Summer of 2020.
 - c. POCD: Final Draft of POCD 2020 is in the final stage of completion and will be presented at P&Z meeting to be scheduled.
 - d. MDC Clearbook: No new business.
 - e. City of Bristol DEEP Grant: The State of CT has awarded the City of Bristol and Environmental Learning Centers of CT a state grant to buy 63.9 acres in the north end of Bristol and in Burlington. Bristol and ELCCT will be sharing an \$850,800 grant to buy the land known as the Pigeon Hill Property. The city

of Bristol will own 35.6 acres located within the city limits and ELCCT will own 28.3 acres located in Burlington.

Burlington P&Z Commission approved earth removal through Shrub Rd Bristol on 6.8 acres in Burlington Application #2155 as part of the agreement on the land stated above located in Burlington.

- f. Sustainability: Website: The Assistant Town Clerk, Christa Renalter has agreed to post links of interest on the CC page of the Town website. Wilhelm encourages all CC members to email her their ideas before next meeting.
- g. Letter to BOS/BOF Town Budget Land Acquisition Fund: Chairman Hebert attended BOS meeting on January 14th and presented letter proposing funds for Open Space/Land Acquisition in the 2020/21 Town Budget. Wilhelm has been tasked to find out the current balance of the sinking fund.
- h. Finan contacted the forester of the timber harvest at Nassahegan State Forest and he has agreed to give an educational public talk & walk on CT Trails Day along with personnel from Sessions Woods. The celebration week-end is June 6th & 7th.

6. New Business:

Goals: Discussion included establishing a Pollinator Pathway Project, creating a pesticide free corridor of public & private properties that provide native plant habitat and nutrition for pollinators.

Identifying native trees & shrubs at JMPR. Encourage planting of native trees & shrubs at JMPR and in the community.

Earth Day Celebration week of April 22, 2020.

The Annual Town Meeting is on Monday, January 27, 7:30 pm. All members are encouraged to attend.

CC Commission Attendance: Shadford requested Chairman Hebert speak to First Selectman Ted Schafer to newly appointed Commissioner Mitchel Kvedar and his frequent absences at meetings. All members approved action to see if he will attend or the need for a replacement member.

7. Other:

Farm Energy Workshop: January 23, 2020, 2 pm, 843 University Dr, Torrington, CT.

Annual Town Meeting: Monday, January, 27th, 2020, 7:30 pm.

Connecticut Land Conservation Council Annual Conference: March 21, 2020.
Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

8. Adjourn: Motion made (Miller), seconded (Finan) and passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:35 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February, 19, 2020.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Shadford, Secretary