

**Town of East Windsor  
Conservation Commission  
Minutes**

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Location:

Town Hall meeting room and Zoom  
Rye St. Broad Brook CT

**Agenda**

**I. CALL TO ORDER – ZOOM meeting 7:40**

**II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

1. Attended by: Albert Grant, Donna Grant, Fran Neill, Kurt Kebschull via Zoom, Ruthanne Calabrese

**III. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Approve minutes of August 26, 2021. Motion made by Kurt Kebschull, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Albert Grant. Motion passed.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Open space Fund**

Need to replenish the fund is of high importance and an ongoing topic.

Kurt Kebschull has a link to Open Space Fund organization that he will send to us. He is working on comparison of properties and the amount of Open Space changes over the years.

**2. Public outreach literature.**

We should try to finalize a letter to landowners to judge interest in preserving their property. An explanation of lowering worrisome tax burden to inheritors should be included.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Reviewing scoring and ranking criteria for properties 30 acres and over and those 30 acres and under.

Commission used state criteria when scoring 30 acres and under.

Agricultural and Conservation Commissions came up with scoring criteria for 30 acres and over with the focus on farms. The criteria developed by the Northern CT Land Trust was used as a basis. The purpose was to identify properties that would qualify for the Purchase of Development Rights program. It looked at the value to the town of the specific properties. Mission was to keep an inventory of the properties. Need to review to see if use or status has changed. In 2009 there were 59 farms 30 acres and over. The Town received a grant to score and practice preserving a property. The highest scoring property was Riverbend on Rye St. Discussion regarding the third highest scoring, which was the Norton property. Our understanding is that Don Norton was at one time interested in preserving the property. There are 11 heirs. The property is not served by Town water or sewer. it is good farmland. The property includes some floodplain which connects to town property.

The Town GIS no longer shows prime soil, PA490 and actively farmed layers.

The State is making an effort to preserve environmental habitats.

We need to revisit the highest ranked properties.

We should see if the EW assessor can give us a list of preserved properties.

## VII. Correspondence

No correspondence

## VIII. Miscellaneous

### 1. Election of Officers

Motion made by Fran Neill to keep same officers for 2022. Albert Grant Chairman, Donna Grant Recording Secretary. Kurt 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion approved.

### 2. Approval of 2022 Meeting Dates

Donna Grant made motion to keep months as presented with 2 exceptions; change January 27, 2022 to January 6, 2022 and December 22, 2022 to December 15, 2022. And to keep the starting time at 7:30 pm. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> Fran Neill. Motion passed.

### 3. Kurt Kebschull is working on historical photos from 1938 to the present for open space and farmland comparisons.

### 4. Next meeting, we will plan to go through rankings of over 30-acre properties, with focus on those that scored higher than 50.

5. The Town Master Plan meeting is on Nov. 10. We should attend. We would like to see what criteria they will be using with the possibility of a recreational aspect to properties. What about a wildlife corridor.

#### IX. REPORTS OF STAFF

There will be future POCD Implementation Committee Meetings with the PZC and the Conservation Commission.

#### X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

#### XI. ADJOURMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Fran Neill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Albert Grant. Meeting adjourned 8:54.

Respectfully Submitted by Donna Grant, recording secretary