

**Town of East Windsor
Conservation Commission
Minutes**

Thursday, January 6, 2022
Zoom meeting only

Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER – ZOOM meeting 7:32

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

III. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Approve minutes of October 28, 2021. Motion made by Fran Neill, 2nd 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.

Norton Farm on Norton Rd. next highest ranked farm property over 30 acres, after Riverbend which has already been preserved. Difficult to talk about it without looking at a map.

Ruthanne Calabrese was able to share her screen so we could look at maps on GIS.

We looked at the location and the amount of Scantic river frontage on the property. This is of particular interest.

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

2. The Open Space Fund still needs to be bolstered.
3. Public Outreach letter. Fran Neill reiterated it to be 2 pronged; to property owners and townspeople to educate on need to protect land.
4. Fran Neill reported that she thought the Town has some excess funds and that we should request that some into the Open Space Fund. We need to get on the radar of the Finance Commission.
5. We would like the Town to consider putting money from Solar Panel Farms into the Open Space Fund. Ruthanne Calabrese stated that next October the town will start getting taxes from the solar farms.
6. Ruthanne Calabrese will look into how Glastonbury, Suffield and Rocky Hill accumulated funds for Open Space.
7. Ruthanne Calabrese suggested that we include the letter that we write to landowners on the Conservation Commission's Town webpage. The list of Resources on the Agricultural Commission's webpage could also be put on the Conservation Commission's webpage.
8. The Norton farm ranks high on Town Open Space property. The Farm is now an LLC. Suggested to send them a letter to see if any interest in preserving the property. Email the contact letter to Fran Neill for editing. Not targeting specifically. Scantic River frontage is of particular interest.
9. Looked at Fauteux property on map. The Scantic River frontage is the best part of the property. It does not seem to be a high probability of development as the property frontage on the road is small.

VII. Correspondence

None

VIII. Miscellaneous

1.

IX. REPORTS OF STAFF

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

XI. ADJOURMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Albert Grant, 2nd by Fran Neill. Meeting adjourned 8:36.

Respectfully Submitted by Donna Grant, recording secretary