

**Town of East Windsor
Conservation Commission
Minutes**

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Location:

Town Hall Rye St. And Zoom meeting

Agenda

I. CALL TO ORDER – ZOOM meeting 7:43pm

II. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

1. Attended by: Albert Grant, Donna Grant, Fran Neill, Kurt Kebschull, Danielle Miller, Alan Baker

III. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes For February 24,2022 and March 24, 2022. Motion made by Fran Neill to approve minutes for both months. 2nd Kurt Kebschull. Minutes approved.

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Review of 30+ acre evaluation criteria and scoring

Danielle Miller researched ideas for criteria for land conservation evaluation.
Albert grant reviewed criteria used previously for farmland preservation.
Danielle Miller discussed getting grants. Soil is #1 criteria for Ag. Easement, Farmland Preservation Grant.

Alan Baker reported that regarding solar farm siting there is a new law that says the siting council has to consider the consequences of putting solar on valuable farmland.

DEEP's criteria is focused on watersheds.

Commission could buy GIS for \$100 year

Open Space Fund

Balance is \$76,952
Commission would like to know how subdivision fee in lieu of open space is calculated.

Recurring question – Commission should investigate if money for Open Space Fund could be made available from solar installations either by “fee in lieu” or taxes, since farmland was removed

From Gravel Pit solar installation

For tax stabilization Town will get \$300,000 a year for 20 years (25?)

\$1,000,000 one time

Also recurring question - The Commission would like to see money from Town Agricultural leases go into the Open Space Fund.

November election – investigate requesting money for the Open Space Fund.
Continue to ask about bonding.

New criteria for preserving agricultural land needs to be extracted from criteria currently used for open space.

Commission should request money for a mailing in the Town budget.
ARPA funds have not been designated yet.

Public Outreach literature

Further discussion about outreach letter written by Donna Grant. Commissioners and Selectman Baker suggested some additions to the letter.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. General Discussion.

VII. REPORTS OF STAFF

VIX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

VIII.ADJOURMENT 8:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Donna Grant, recording secretary