



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

www.ellington-ct.gov

TEL. (860) 870-3120 TOWN PLANNER'S OFFICE FAX (860) 870-3122

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

PRESENT: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Vice Chairman David Bidwell, Regular Members Sean Dwyer, James Gage, and Robert Zielfelder, and Alternate Laurie Burstein

ABSENT: Regular Members Christopher Hattin and George Nickerson, and Alternate Ann Harford

STAFF

PRESENT: Samantha Getchell, Recording Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:03 PM at the Ellington Town Hall Annex, 57 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Non-Agenda Items): Terry Firetto, 5 Esther Avenue, inquired about Sustainable CT. Chairman Quarno provided Ms. Firetto with an overview of the initiative. Samantha Getchell, Recording Clerk, provided Ms. Firetto with an informational packet about the program. Ms. Firetto explained her husband's background and interest in helping the commission to create a natural resource and wildlife inventory. Ms. Firetto will contact Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner.

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Determination of open space for a proposed subdivision of 9.36 acres for one additional lot, 240 Jobs Hill Road, APN 139-002-0000, Rural/Agricultural Residential Zone, Fly Boys Ink, LLC, owner/applicant.

Mike Swanson, owner, was present to talk about the proposal. In her absence, Ms. Houlihan provided the commission with a map of the property and a memo explaining her support for fee-in-lieu-of land to meet open space requirements for the proposed subdivision.

MOVED (GAGE), SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND FEE IN LIEU OF OPEN SPACE FOR A PROPOSED SUBDIVISION OF 9.36 ACRES FOR ONE ADDITIONAL LOT, 240 JOBS HILL ROAD, APN 139-002-0000, RURAL/AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL ZONE. FLY BOYS INK, LLC, OWNER/APPLICANT.

2. Determination of open space for a proposed subdivision of 9.81 acres for one additional lot, 78 Hoffman Road, APN 120-026-0001, Rural/Agricultural Residential Zone, Sullivan, owner/applicant.

Joseph Armstrong was present on behalf of Kimberly Sullivan, owner of the property. They propose to set-aside a 1.011 acre parcel to meet the 10% open space requirement. The Commission reviewed a memo from Ms. Houlihan. There was roundtable discussion on a way to revise the plan to protect the riparian area along Bahler's Brook.

MOVED (QUARNO), SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDING DEDICATION OF LAND SET-ASIDE FOR A PROPOSED SUBDIVISION OF 9.81 ACRES FOR ONE ADDITIONAL LOT, 78 HOFFMAN ROAD, APN 120-026-0001, RURAL/AGRICULTURAL RESIDENTIAL ZONE, SULLIVAN, OWNER/APPLICANT, AND THAT THE PLAN BE REVISED TO PROTECT THE RIPARIAN AREA ALONG BAHLER'S BROOK THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE PROPERTY BY EXTENDING THE OPEN SPACE AREA FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 2 ALONG THE REAR OF LOT 1 TO THE SOUTHERN PROPERTY LINE AND WHICH WILL LIKELY INCREASE THE AREA OF DEDICATED LAND ABOVE 1.011 ACRES.

3. Sustainable Ellington Initiative
 - a. 2.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory
 - b. 2.7 Provide Education on Water ConservationThis item was deferred to the next meeting.
4. Update – Ellington Hockanum River Committee: Harford/Nickerson – Leads
There was nothing new to report on this item.
5. Report - Working Farmland Preservation Program: Gage/Staff – Leads
There was nothing to report on this item.
6. Report - Open Space Preservation Program: Gage – Lead
Commissioner Gage presented a new project the Northern Connecticut Land Trust plans to seek grant funding for. A draft letter of support was present for the commission to consider endorsing. Commissioner Gage described the location of the property and reported it's almost 118 acres of open forest and some wetlands. The land is within Charters Brook watershed. The commission agreed the parcel meets open space objectives and is a great piece of land to preserve.

MOVED (BIDWELL), SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED (5 YES, 1 ABSTAINED GAGE) TO ENDORSE THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE NORTHERN CONNECTICUT LAND TRUST SEEKING GRANT FUNDING FOR PRESERVATION OF THREE PARCELS TOTALING 114.4 ACRES OF THE WRAIGHT PROPERTY LOCATED AT APN's 164-001-0000, 165-002-0000, AND 165-001-0000, ELLINGTON, CT.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY18-19 Budget Expenditure Update
There was nothing to report on this item.
2. Approval of the December 4, 2018 regular meeting minutes.
MOVED (GAGE) SECONDED (BIDWELL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 4, 2018, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.
3. Election of Officers
 - A. CHAIRMAN POSITION

MOVED (DWYER) SECONDED (BIDWELL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER (QUARNO) FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR 2019.

**COMMISSIONER (QUARNO) ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.
HEARING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED.**

MOVED (DWYER) SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT COMMISSIONER (QUARNO) FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR 2019.

B. VICE-CHAIRMAN POSITION

MOVED (DWYER) SECONDED (QUARNO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO NOMINATE COMMISSIONER (BIDWELL) FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR 2019.

**COMMISSIONER (BIDWELL) ACCEPTED THE NOMINATION.
HEARING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED.**

MOVED (DWYER) SECONDED (QUARNO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ELECT COMMISSIONER (BIDWELL) FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION FOR 2019.

4. Correspondence:
 - a. Oakridge Times, Dec. 22, 2018.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (BIDWELL) SECONDED (ZIELFELDER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Getchell, Recording Clerk