



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786  
**TOWN OF ELLINGTON**

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**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019, 7:00 PM  
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Vice Chairman David Bidwell, Regular Members James Gage, George Nickerson and Sean Dwyer, and Alternates Ann Harford and Laurie Burstein

**ABSENT:** Regular Member Robert Zielfelder

**STAFF:** Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner and Acting Recording Clerk

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Non-Agenda Items):** None

**III. WORKSHOP - Natural Resource Inventory**

Chet Arnold and Emily Wilson of the UCONN Center for Land Use Education and Research ([CLEAR](#)) conducted a presentation regarding Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). Mr. Arnold introduced the overall concept of an NRI, the importance and purpose of an NRI, and major categories of information that may be included in an inventory.

Ms. Wilson demonstrated the CT ECO website, the state's main repository of natural resources geospatial maps and data. She explained where to find useful information and examples of changing conditions in Connecticut using UCONN's Connecticut's Changing Landscape site. The site shows changes in land cover from 1985-2010. She explained techniques for downloading and sharing maps.

The commission thanked Mr. Arnold and Ms. Wilson for the presentation. A roundtable followed about how the presentation will help them create a NRI for Ellington.

Ms. Houlihan explained recent contact with Connecticut Water Co. (ConnWater) about upcoming inspections of properties within the Shenipsit Watershed. During discussion they talked about collaborative efforts to educate the public about benefits of water conservation and watersheds. ConnWater shared an education document highlighting health benefits of clean water. The educational material will be disseminated to the commission next month for review and discussion.

Ms. Houlihan explained changes to the draft Right to Farm ordinance recommended by the Town Attorney. She explained that the changes align language with statutory authority. The draft ordinance is under review by the Ordinance Committee.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (DWYER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 8:49 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Houlihan, Acting Recording Clerk