

Beacon Falls Conservation Commission
10 Maple Ave.
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2015
(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairman Mike Bouchard called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.
Commissioners present: Vice Chairman Mike Bouchard, Tanya Gutierro, Michael Opuszynski, Lori Paradis Brant, Ruth Burritt
Commissioner absent: Chairman Diane Betkoski, Secretary Sophie Zyla
Others present: Bonnie Chevarella

2. Approval of Minutes – March 2, and April 6, 2015

Due to a lack of quorum the March 2, and April 6, 2015 minutes could not be approved.

3. Correspondence -

- champion award application from Aquarion Water Company, deadline 5/5/15
- Soil and Water, Spring 2015 SW Conservation District newsletter
- Audubon May-June 2015 issue
- First Selectman memo dated 4/16/15 re purchase order system advising that all POs are to go to the Finance Dept for review to prevent budget overruns
- BFPL surveys
- Spring 2015 The Habitat newsletter

4. Comments from the Public - none

Invited Guest - P&Z Chair, Kevin McDuffie - not available

5. Membership Update -

- Resignation of Jeff Kean
- Commission Vacancy - update
Ruth Burritt was appointed and sworn in to take Jeff Kean's slot. She will be maintaining the Conservation Commission web site.

6. Budget Update

- Variance Report
Subject about purchasing conservation-themed books for the library arose. This will be further discussed at the June 1 meeting.

- Renaming Land Acquisition account to Open Space Preservation Fund
M. Bouchard noted there was a form on the town web site to propose a change to an ordinance, D. Betkoski is handling this.

7. Land Use Committee Report - M. Opuszynski

M. Opuszynski reported that there was no meeting last month.

8. Open Space Management

- Open Space Preservation Fund - Ordinance Update - Status Report
M. Bouchard commented that the goal is to keep all references consistent.
- Open Space Deeds - Status Report - in progress
M. Opuszynski noted that deeds had been located. It was brought to the First Selectman's attention and requested advice on how to ensure the wording on the deeds was consistent and legal and how to change them without incurring great legal fees.
- Open Space Inventory & Future Planning - Subcommittee Report
M. Opuszynski noted that he would like to get updated maps; task is in progress.

9. Subcommittee Reports

- Land Use (Diane Betkoski & Mike Bouchard) - no meetings for 2 months
- Recognition and Grants (Diane Betkoski & Ruth Burritt)
L. Brant noted that she compiled a list of environmental/conservation grants, awards and recognition for posting to the Conservation Commission web site.

R. Burritt requested ideas for fields to include when compiling the data base and what it will be used for to accommodate all the data fields necessary

L. Brant suggested adding a field for a link to the web site and date applied,

M. Opuszynski added fields for what the award/grant is, application deadline, and if it had an individual or group award recipient. He noted that additional fields could be added later.

R. Burritt confirmed that this data base should reside on the Conservation Commission web site. M. Opuszynski also suggested storing it on Google docs.

L. Brant commented that had compiled a list of conservation-related conferences and seminars to be posted to the web site.

- Open Space Inventory (Mike Opuszynski)
- Natural Resource Inventory (Sophie Zyla)
- Website (Sophie Zyla & Ruth Burritt) [see notes above]

- Outreach Activities
 - Citizen's News - Earth Day article published
 - Riverfest/Duck Race - May 9 - L. Brant created a schedule for the day with a focus on recycling including a recycle relay and giveaways.

Discussion ensued about having a donation jar. This would raise awareness that the Open Space Preservation Fund exists and possibly collect donation for it.

M. Opuszynski made a sign in recognition for the help from the Girl Scouts and will be presented at 3:30 and a photo could be submitted to Citizen's News.

L. Brant raised the question about the type of recycling accepted. M. Bouchard advised checking the Winter Brothers web site wintersbroscet.com for updates.

The Commissioners signed up to man the booth and bring equipment. L. Brant will update and resend the list.

- Trails Day June 5
 - L. Brant posted an event listing for a nature education walk at Lantern Ridge on Sunday June 7. She will submit news item to Citizen's News for this event and a flyer to Region 16.

M. Opuszynski noted that the Girl Scouts could be there to hang the sign.

10. Payment of Invoices -

- Clerical invoice –
 - Motion to accept Clerk Martha Melville’s invoice requesting payment of \$72.50 for the April 6, 2015 meeting and associated administrative work and pay the bill as submitted: Opuszynski/Gutierro; all aye.

11. Announcements/Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 7, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM: Opuszynski/Gutierro; all aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Melville
Clerk

CC: Conservation Commission members, Board of Selectmen
Planning & Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Park & Rec Commissions