

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



BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2015
(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Diane Betkoski called the meeting to order at 6:41 PM.

Commissioners present: Secretary Sophie Zyla, Michael Opuszynski, Lori Paradis Brant, Ruth Burritt, Tanya Gutierro

2. Approval of Minutes – September 14, 2015

Motion to accept the September 14, 2015 meeting minutes: Opuszynski/Gutierro; all aye.
S. Zyla abstained as she was not at the September 14, 2015 meeting.

3. Correspondence -

- 9/23 Memo dated 9/23/15 from Town Clerk Len Greene re the procedure for submitting resignations from commissions and boards which must go through the Town Clerk's office

Announcement of the CT Forest Forum on Wed. October 28 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. L. Brant added that she was the chair of the CT Urban Forest Council Conference and it is always held in the last week of October

T. Gutierro, S. Zyla and R. Burritt expressed interested in attending
Visit cturbanforestcouncil.org for additional information

4. Comments from the Public - none

5. Membership Update -

- Vacancy Update - D. Betkoski noted that she forwarded B. Chevarella's request to fill the vacancy left by M. Bouchard to the Board of Selectmen
- D. Betkoski will also request the Board of Selectmen appoint R. Burritt to be the Conservation Commission representative to the Land Use committee
- Letters of Intent - D. Betkoski requested that members submit their Letters of Intent to request to remain on the Conservation Commission to the Board of Selectmen by November 5

ACTION: All Conservation Commissioners are to submit a Letter of Intent requesting to remain on the Conservation Commission to the Board of Selectmen by November 5 and cc the Town Clerk and the other Conservation Commission members.

ACTION: D. Betkoski will request the Town Clerk attend the Conservation Commission's December 7 meeting in order to swear everyone in.

Chair D. Betkoski announced her intention to resign from the Conservation Commission effective November 3, 2015

- Conflict of Interest statement - awaiting forms from Karen Wilson
- CACIWC Conference and workshops November 14; D. Betkoski will accept registrations by October 30 from anyone interested in attending and will submit paperwork to pay out of the Conservation Commission budget
- Approval of 2016 meeting dates memo to Town Clerk
Clerk M. Melville presented the proposed 2016 regular meeting schedule which is to be filed with the Town Clerk.

Motion to approve the proposed 2016 meeting schedule as presented:
Opuszynski/Zyla; all aye.

6. Budget

- Variance Report - no activity

7. Land Use Committee Report -

M. Opuszynski reported the meeting held on September 30 did not have a quorum.

He commented that he will attend other town commission meetings and request their support.

He noted that he is compiling a list of questions from all boards and commissions concerning the proposed energy park and will forward them to the Board of Selectmen.

8. Open Space Management

- Open Space Preservation Fund - Ordinance Update - Status Report
D. Betkoski noted that the update of the Open Space Preservation Fund ordinance was on hold perhaps waiting for other ordinance changes to vote on at a town meeting.
- Open Space Deeds - Status Report -
L. Brant reported that she spoke to Amy Paterson, Executive Director, CT Land Conservation Council about attending a Conservation Commission meeting. A. Paterson will attend the December 7 meeting.

D. Betkoski suggested inviting other boards and commissions to attend this meeting and possibly offer refreshments.

ACTION: D. Betkoski will officially invite Amy Paterson to attend the Conservation Commission December 7 meeting. She will also invite other boards and commissions to hear A. Paterson discuss deeds and other related land use issues.

M. Opuszynski noted that easements also need to be addressed.

ACTION: R. Burritt volunteered to coordinate refreshments (coffee and baked goods) for the December 7 meeting.

- Open Space Inventory & Future Planning - Subcommittee Report - NTR

9. **Subcommittee Reports**

- Land Use (Diane Betkoski)
- Recognition and Grants (Diane Betkoski & Ruth Burritt)
- Open Space Inventory (Mike Opuszynski)
- Natural Resource Inventory (Sophie Zyla)
- Website (Sophie Zyla & Ruth Burritt)
M. Melville will help R. Burritt access and post to the town website.

R. Burritt will post more photos and events to the Conservation Commission Facebook page

Discussion ensued about what should be on CC Facebook page, if it should be restricted to only Beacon Falls events. After further discussion it was agreed to share any conservation-related activities and events on the BFCC Facebook page to increased publicity on related events as long as the postings are appropriate.

It was also mentioned that the CC Facebook page should "like" and "share" other postings on Beacon Falls group pages to further spread information.

T. Gutierro noted that the Conservation Commission Facebook page now has 28 likes.

- Outreach Activities (Lori Brant) reviewed proposed activities and leads

November 15 America Recycles Day

ACTION: L. Brant will email R. Burritt information to post on the CC Facebook page

February 14 Beacon Falls Loves our Trails

Post photos and love notes to the CC Facebook page - S. Zyla will lead this activity

March Read Across America Day

L. Brant commented that the Conservation Commission is interested in working with the Laurel Ledge PTO to possibly sponsor a movie night for Lorax

ACTION: S. Zyla will check if Audubon has movie rights to Lorax.

Spring clean up

M. Opuszynski has the lead for Spring Clean Up in April to coincide with Earth Day; he will coordinate with the Girl Scout troop

M. Opuszynski suggested having a signup sheet for CT Trails Day at the Conservation Commission table at the Duck Race

June: Great American Backyard Campout suggested activity

M. Opuszynski suggested posting tips and lists of items needed for campouts on the Conservation Commission website.

July: Cardboard Boat Regatta

L. Brant suggested challenging other town commissions to the cardboard boat regatta; M. Opuszynski and S. Zyla will co-lead this activity.

10. Payment of Invoices -

- Clerical invoice –

Motion to accept Clerk Martha Melville's invoice requesting payment of \$80.00 for the October 5, 2015 meeting and associated administrative work and pay the bill as submitted: Opuszynski/Gutierro; all aye.

11. Announcements/Adjournment

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 2, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM: Opuszynski/Zyla; all aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Melville
Clerk

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