

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



**BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**February 1, 2016**  
**(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)**

**1. Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Lori Paradis Brant called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

Commissioners present: Vice Chair Bonnie Chevarella, Ashleigh Doherty, Ruth Burritt

Commissioners absent: Secretary Sophie Zyla, Mike Opuszynski, Tanya Gutierro

Others present: John Dixon

Chair L. Brant read the Conservation Commission mission statement.

**2. Approval of Minutes – January 4, 2016**

The January 4, 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed. The chair noted that no changes were needed and were accepted as presented.

**3. Correspondence -**

- January 24 email from Rich Minnick re status update of Riverbend Park Enhancement
- CT DEEP Winter 2016 newsletter
- Jan-Feb 2016 Audubon issue

**4. Comments from the Public**

Chair Lori Paradis Brant asked three times if there was any public comment and there was none at this time.

**5. Membership Update -**

- a) Provide bios and photos for web site - reminder  
R. Burritt noted she has received bios from A. Doherty, L. Brant & D. Betkoski for the Conservation Commission website.

**ACTION:** Commissioners are asked to send their bio to Ruth Burritt for the website NLT Sunday 7 February, per request of Chair L. Brant.

**6. Land Use Committee Report -**

L. Brant noted they will meet on Wednesday February 3.

L. Brant requested R. Burritt offer a challenge the other boards and commissions for the card board boat regatta in July.

#### **7. Open Space Management Update**

L. Brant reported that former Chair Diane Betkoski had emailed First Selectman Bielik on 1/28 to follow up on updating open space deeds to use consistent language stating they be preserved as open space in perpetuity. Awaiting response.

L. Brant noted the open space inventory spreadsheet will be used as a guide to identify open space, if they have trails, if boundaries are marked, what maintenance is needed and how they will work into a larger plan for the town and who might partner with the Conservation Commission as volunteers to help.

J. Dixon added that he asked in the town hall if there was a trail map for the town. L. Brant responded that there isn't one but it would be something the Conservation Commission could work on.

#### **8. Subcommittee Reports**

- a) Land Use (Ruth Burritt) - next meeting February 3
- b) Recognition and Grants (Ruth Burritt)  
R. Burritt reported that she has compiled a spreadsheet.
- c) Open Space Inventory (Mike Opuszynski) - overview/status of deeds
- d) Natural Resource Inventory (Sophie Zyla)
- e) Website/Facebook (Sophie Zyla & Ruth Burritt) View and provide feedback  
R. Burritt showed the current Conservation Commission webpage on the town website. She suggested layering the older documents to archive them.

L. Brant asked what she, as Chair, could do to help move the website effort along. R. Burritt suggested getting Virtual Town Hall training.

The Commissioners reviewed the current webpage and made these suggestions:

- removing the 2011 and 2012 documents
- commissioner bios could be linked from their name
- delete year 2013, have it linked to the current Goals and Objectives
- delete 2012 Annual Report
- remove CONSERV newsletter link
- keep Invasive Plants
- Ordinances - keep, but link to the two ordinances for specifically for the Conservation Commission
- Stay Connected - keep, use for Facebook
- Commission Members - keep

- Recycling - should have Winter Brothers link for specific local pick ups; change list to generic link for CT DEEP recycling and get rid of the long list
- Natural Resource - link to document if available
- News & Announcements - keep link but it will need to be changed and updated at least once a month; after discussion, consensus was to delete link and use the Facebook page
- Storm Water Management: marking drains, new storm drains will need to be marked

**ACTION:** L. Brant will check with T. Gutierro and D. Betkoski if there are any storm drain markers left.

**ACTION:** B. Chevarella will contact Don Ferretti and ask if the Boy Scouts to put markers on the new storm drains in town

- Associated We Keep - change to Resource Links (title change) add Winter Brothers here
- Environmental Review Reports - there are broken links
- Naugatuck River Project - good
- Open Space Planning & Maps - link is good
- Lantern Ridge - keep for now but the photos need to be better organized
- Photos - perhaps use a Flickr page to store and arrange them
- Emerald Ash Borer - old press release, remove date from table

**ACTION:** L. Brant requested that these web page updates be completed by the March 7 meeting.

**ACTION:** L. Brant will request Virtual Town Hall access and training for several Conservation Commission members from First Selectman Bielik.

**ACTION:** L. Brant will contact E. Schwarz about the Park & Rec website

**ACTION:** Each commissioner is asked to review the current Conservation Commission web page and offer suggestions. If any broken links are discovered, email it to R. Burritt, per L. Brant request.

**ACTION:** For Commissioners who use Facebook, please "like" the Beacon Falls Conservation page before the March meeting, and actively make a monthly posting. R. Burritt will give the members admin privileges.

L. Brant expressed her thanks and gave kudos to R. Burritt for her efforts on the web and Facebook pages.

- f) Outreach Activities (Lori Paradis Brant)  
Review Beacon Falls Loves its Trails draft press release for Citizen's News as presented by L. Paradis Brant

**ACTION:** L. Brant will email the draft press release and request feedback from the Commissioners by Sunday February 7 and it will be submitted to Citizen's News on Monday February 8.

Book circulation - provided by the Library Director

L. Brant requested the commissioners review the BFPL circulation stats and consider what, if anything, to consider purchasing for the library.

**9. Payment of Invoices -**

Clerical invoice –

Motion to accept Clerk Martha Melville's invoice requesting payment of \$72.50 for the January 4, 2016 meeting and associated administrative work and pay the bill as submitted: Chevarella/Doherty; all aye.

**10. Task List**

- a) 2016 Goals

L. Brant distributed a draft of the 2016 Goals. She suggested having an admin position on the Commission to monitor various listservs and Facebook. This will be discussed further at the March meeting

- b) Status of Google Docs shared files

L. Brant reported that S. Zyla had trouble creating this.

**11. Announcements**

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Assembly Room.

**12. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM: Chevarella/Doherty; all aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Melville  
Clerk

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