

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



**BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**June 6, 2016**  
**(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)**

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

Chair pro tem Bonnie Chevarella called the meeting to order at 6:48 PM in the Beacon Falls Town Hall Assembly Room.

Commissioners present: Chair pro tem Bonnie Chevarella, Ruth Burritt, Tanya Gutierro, Mike Opuszynski

Commissioners absent: Secretary pro tem Ashleigh Doherty, Dave Farley

Others present: Carrie Frederick

**2. Announcements**

Reminder of July 9 events at Matthies Park

**3. Comments from the Public - none**

**4. Approval of Minutes – May 2016**

The members present who were at the May 2, 2016 meeting reviewed them and deemed them correct.

**5. Correspondence -**

- Spring 2016 CACIWC Habitat newsletter
- letter from town attorney Byrne's office regarding his rate increase
- BOS memo dated May 25 re halt on discretionary spending as of June 3, 2016
- copy of the approved FY 2016-2017 budget for Conservation Commission
- R. Burritt reported she emailed Beacon Hose Co 1 Chief J. Trzaski thanking him for the Smokey Bear stickers and bottled water and for the preparedness of his department in the face of a potential emergency at Lantern Ridge during CT Trails Day.

**6. Old Business: Subcommittee Reports**

- A. Membership and Officers
  - elections in September
  - one vacancy on commission

- B. Land Use (Ruth Burritt) - next meeting is July 27
- C. Recognition and Grants (Ruth Burritt) - NTR
- D. Open Space Inventory (Mike Opuszynski) - NFI
- E. Natural Resource Inventory (Need Lead) document posted to website  
M. Opuszynski gave some background on the NRI and suggested having future inventories outsourced. He noted that every 10-20 years a NRI should be done on an open space parcel. He added that first the commission would need to identify which open spaces would need to be done and prioritize.

**ACTION:** M. Opuszynski will research resources available to take on the task of the Natural Resource Inventory.

- F. Website/Facebook (Ruth Burritt & Ashleigh Doherty) - need bios
- G. Outreach Activities

1) Report on Beacon Falls RiverFest/Duck Race

T. Gutierrez reported the RiverFest went well and gave out lots of giveaways.

R. Burritt suggested the need for more interactive activities.

B. Chevarella noted there were lots of the runners there interested in CT Trails Day.

R. Burritt suggested putting brochures for invasive plants and others in the kiosk at Lantern Ridge, once it is complete.

2) Report on CT Trails Weekend: June 4 & 5 at Lantern Ridge

8 attendees

Some trail work was completed including weed whacking by Commissioner Dave Farley

a potential emergency was avoided when a hiker was believed lost

M. Opuszynski suggested posting the additional trail signs

Discussion about blazing the existing trail; this will be reassessed after the Boy Scouts complete their Eagle Scout projects.

Discussion about placement of the kiosk, M. Opuszynski suggested to placing it in between the two existing trails, so the double sided sign would be seen from both trails.

There are plans to put mulch at the beginning of the trail, to show where it begins.

3) Update on Cardboard Boat Regatta: July 9

- letter sent to other boards and commissions

M. Opuszynski reported that he has cardboard, has a boat design, which he presented, and will start building it. The Girl Scouts will help build and decorate with a conservation theme and man the boat.

**ACTION:** R. Burritt will check on obtaining large pieces of cardboard.

7. New Business

A. Summer meeting schedule

Next scheduled meetings are July 11 and August 1

Discussion ensued about summer vacation schedules and any upcoming events and it was agreed to cancel the August 1 meeting.

Motion to cancel the August 1, 2016 regular monthly Conservation Commission meeting: Opuszynski/Gutierro; all aye.

B. Publicity

**ACTION:** B. Chevarella will put an article in the Citizen's News asking for a volunteer to fill the vacancy on the commission.

M. Opuszynski suggested also posting it to the Conservation Commission's Facebook page.

**ACTION:** T. Gutierro will post to the Conservation Commission's Facebook page seeking a volunteer to fill the vacancy.

8. Payment of Invoices -

A. Clerical invoice –

Motion to accept Clerk Martha Melville's invoice requesting payment of \$95.00 for the June 6, 2016 meeting and associated administrative work including remaining clerking work to be completed by the end of FY 2015-16 and pay the bill as submitted: Opuszynski/Burritt; all aye.

B. Whistle giveaways

Reimbursing Ashleigh Doherty for \$173.50 for purchase of whistle giveaways.

Motion to reimburse Ashleigh Doherty for \$173.50 for the purchase of whistle giveaways: Gutierro/Burritt; all aye.

C. Eagle Scout projects

Chair pro tem B. Chevarella signed a purchase order for materials from Oxford Lumber for Charlie Ciarcia's kiosk project at Toby's Pond as previously approved.

D. Budget Transfer

Motion to approve a budget transfer of \$487.25 from budget line item 10.90.24.1041 Wages - Clerk to budget line 10.90.24.1806 Land Acquisition and forward this request to the Board of Selectmen: **Opuszynski/Gutierro**; no discussion; all aye.

Justification: The Wages - Clerk line item will have an excess this year because the clerk was able to perform Conservation Commission work while filling in as admin in the First Selectman's office thus not charging the Conservation Commission or her time. This transfer will bolster the Open Space Land Acquisition account for possible future land purchases.

**9. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM: **Opuszynski/Gutierro**; all aye.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Monday, July 11, 2016 (2nd Monday of the month due to the 4th of July holiday) at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Assembly Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Melville  
Clerk

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