

Town of East Windsor Conservation Commission
Minutes for 01-26-17

In attendance Albert Grant, Fran Neill, Kirk Monstream, Shawn Rairigh

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM

Minutes of December 22nd approved

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Updated Bylaws of Conservation Commission were reviewed and approved.
2. We discussed various farm properties currently being considered for conservation.
3. We discussed the appearance before the Planning and Zoning Commission.
4. Albert drafted a landowner contact letter to mail to all the farmers over an under 30 acres. We will finalize the letter. We will be appealing to the farmers who want their land to remain viable for agriculture to consider the transfer of development rights to the town. We discussed various methods that the town could adopt to keep our agricultural land for agricultural purposes. Shawn Rairigh, Assistant town planner, mentioned how the town he had previously worked for had tied development in the business district with offsetting agricultural set asides on the rural areas of town.
5. We proposed obtaining approval from the town for bonding for open space funds noting that surrounding towns have adopted this policy.
6. Kirk Monstream will contact the town treasurer to see if we can get a budget line item for the Conservation Commission for the 2017 FY.

OLD BUSINESS

250th Town Anniversary - We talked about various ways the conservation Commission could be involved in the celebration. We could pull together a town "Open Space" history - i.e. What land was used for what purpose through the course of the last 250 years. We talked about pulling something together regarding the Osborn Mill. We thought that we could display our historical findings on the historical house tour and other anniversary functions.

MISCELLANEOUS

We discussed the impact that the proposed casino might have on conservation in the town. Kirk proposed that the town look to have conservation of open space language be part of the deal for approval of a casino in town.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Frances Neill