



**Town of Beacon Falls
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
C/O Town Clerk
10 Maple Avenue Beacon Falls, CT 06403
January 11, 2024
(Subject to Revision)**

Member Present: Julian Thomas (**JT**), Joann Delenick (**JD**), Victor Santos (**VS**), Larry Wissink (**LW**), Lori Paradis-Brant (**LPB**) via TEAMS, Cody Muth (**CM**)

Members Absent: N/A

Others Present: N/A

1. **Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag**

JT called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM and led the assembled in the pledge of allegiance.

2. **Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings**

Motion to approve the 12/14/2023 meeting minutes by **VS**, seconded by **CM**. All ayes.

3. **Comments from the public:** None

4. **Correspondence:** None

5. **Old Business:**

a. Announcements: None

b. Lantern Ridge Park Updates: No updates

c. Open Space Strategy & Planning: No updates

d. 39 Acre Property: No updates

e. POCD Discussion: No updates

f. Trails Day: June 1st and June 2nd. Plan for Saturday (June 1), rain date of Sunday (June 2).

6. **New Business:**

a. DEEP Rec Trails Grant – **JD** I think everyone should look at the application and we can make a portfolio of projects using the application as the format. It's very structured and straight forward. When we talk about any project I think just go right to the application and fill it out. This year's application is due March 11th. They want the town to give 20% of the grant which, in Beacon Falls may or may not be budgeable, but they value volunteer labor and contributions at 32\$ an hour and we can use that towards the 20% so I think we can use a quite a bit of hours for the 20% matching any part of the grant. They want the timeline to be 3 years. **LW** For clarification so if we got awarded \$50,000 that would be over 3 years? **JD** Yes, you don't have to spend it within a year. They really systematized the whole process much better. I'm excited because I have my own ideas about what I think should get done. It's clearly orientated towards trails and new trails. With an extra bonus they say connecting to greenways. The DEEP funding isn't the only funding available, there's DOT money for construction projects so there's additional money in different areas in the government. Which is why I'm saying it's time to put all these projects as a portfolio to get it in. I personally think 39 because it can be adjoined, it checks all the boxes. They'll give money to make bathrooms. I didn't ask particularly about parking but I'm sure that's included. It sounds like they aren't restrictive to what construction it is. But if you have a formula of what you did at Lantern Ridge put that out there and we can use that as a track record. **VS** You can also use a combination of private and public funding.

**Discussion followed about locations to apply for the DEEP Grant. **



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JT Does everyone think it's a good idea to do Acre 39? **CM** Yes **LPB** I think that's a great idea. **JT** The trail I think is fairly easy, the only issue I have is coming back when you go around that big rock is its quite steep, I think we need to build 6 by 6 stairs. They're relatively easy to build, if anything is really steep, we can put up a railing. For advanced hikers we can put in a rope system. **LW** I think the obvious trail is from Pent Road to Naugatuck State Forest. It's beautiful. If you can build all that, why do we need the grant? **JT** My idea is, it will still cost money, but first my idea or priority is Acre 39, second is creating a space at Lorraine Drive plus we need a parking lot. Lantern Ridge isn't going anywhere. **LPB** Lorraine will also connect to the State Forest, maybe that's the overall thing for the grant, connecting local land to the state forest. In one section i.e. Lorraine, it's developing a parking area and potential trail and then Pent Road/Acre 39 is materials for building the trail. **JT** So you're saying creating that theme of access to open space. **LPB** Right. I just want to point out 2 AMCs for us to look into that do trail design programs. **JT** Do you have an idea of the cost associated with something like that? **LPB** I don't but I can reach out. **JT** I'm going to poke around and see – I'll look into AMC. Can you reach out to them? **LPB** I'm happy to. I'll CC you on the email.

7. **Petition from Commissioners:** None
8. **Executive Session:** Not Needed
9. **Adjournment:** **VS** made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM: **CM** seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Pastor
Clerk, Conservation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes – Conservation Commission
Clerked by Nicole Pastor
Meeting Date: 01/11/24