



**Town of Beacon Falls
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
C/O Town Clerk
10 Maple Avenue Beacon Falls, CT 06403
February 8, 2024
(Subject to Revision)**

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Co-Town Planner Molly Johnson (**MJ**), Selectman Michael Krenesky (**MK**)

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

CM called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM and led the assembled in the pledge of allegiance.

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

Motion to approve the 01/11/2024 meeting minutes by **VS**, seconded by **LPB**. All ayes.

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

4. **Correspondence:** **LPB** I have correspondence from AMC – they are on a lull/break right now and coming back mid-February. Will we get information in time for the grant, I don't know but we'll see. **JD** Motion to schedule a special meeting for Feb 29th to discuss the DEEP Trails Grant **VS** Seconded. All ayes.

5. **Old Business:**

a. **Announcements:** **LPB** CLCC Announced their Spring conference – I will email everyone about it. I've also heard good things about CACIWC but I've never attended theirs.

b. **Lantern Ridge Park Updates:** **CM** They did the trees but that was a few months ago, no other updates.

c. **Open Space Strategy & Planning:** **MJ** I am Molly Johnson, I work for NVCOG and Part Time with Beacon Falls as the co-Town Planner. You may be familiar with the proposed subdivision Hawks View, at the public hearing they discussed the fact that they're willing to talk about open space, I wanted to bring that to your attention and get some thoughts on it. **Discussion followed about available open space areas on the map – Molly asks questions from her memo which is attached at the end of the minutes**

LPB We have noted in previous meetings that as a part of the regulations we should have a say in the open space that we (The Town) are given. One of the things we've talked about is the open space that we've taken previously is an island which for conservation's sake no one can get to it. I would want to know what is that land – what is it made of - what's the geology, what's the habitat? What are we looking at? **JT** Anyone else here been to that property? **Board Replies No** **LPB** My concern is how do we decide if we want the land?

d. **39 Acre Property:** **JT** We had a discussion last month, but I don't have a plan together on cost yet. I will get to that for the next meeting.

e. **POCD Discussion:** **LW** I would like to prioritize pedestrian access and walkways. **MJ** The town has been doing outreach to department heads, what we are looking for is town input and priority.

f. **Trails Day:** **JT** I have to do a map before the end of this month, I'll send you guys a notice like a rough draft.

g. **DEEP Trails Grant:** No update – Discussed above



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6. **New Business:**
 - a. **FY25 Budget** – JT Should I talk to Natasha or Erin about donations into that fund?
NP/Clerk I will get back to you on that.
7. **Petition from Commissioners:** MJ We are working on municipal stormwater for the town – it came to my attention in the past the conservation did some public outreach and engagement on this, and I think there's potential for future partnership with the town so I wanted to bring that to your attention and see if that's an interest for you all feel free to reach out to either of us.
8. **Executive Session:** Not Needed
9. **Adjournment:** VS made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM: **CM** seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Pastor
Clerk, Conservation Commission

Nicole Pastor

From: Molly Johnson <mjohnson@nvcogct.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 2:33 PM
To: Nicole Pastor
Subject: Conservation commission - town planner notes

Open Space:

- Hawks View subdivision is currently being reviewed. During the developer's presentation at their PZC public hearing last month, they mentioned an openness to work with the town regarding open space. I am here today because I know the Conservation Commission considers open space. So I wanted to ask a few questions regarding this:
 1. Does the conservation commission feel that setting aside an area of these parcels as open space would be beneficial to the town?
 2. How has the Commission navigated conversations such as these in the past?
 3. Are there Open Space plans I should be aware of?
 - a. Google sheets characteristics of open space for the town – 10-12 characteristics of what the Commission looks for in open space
 4. Is there any specific recommendation that the Commission would like me to make to the planning and zoning commission in regards to open space for this subdivision?
 - a. Interested in continuing a conversation regarding open space.
 - b. Interested in receiving more information/scientific inventory of the site
- Some things to note about the proposed subdivision:
 - o I noticed that the parcel in question borders an existing 3.66 acre parcel of open space owned by Beacon Falls off of Haley Ridge;
 - o ~50 feet of the proposed site plan for the first subdivision borders the open space.
 - o The parcel is proposed to be subdivided to 19.3 acres and 21.3 acres.

MS4:

- The town has been ramping up its stormwater work to meet the Best Management Practices of our MS4 permit. Two best management practices that I believe the Conservation Commission can support are 1. Public Education & Outreach (flyers, displays etc...) 2. Public Involvement (events that incorporate the public in municipal stormwater protection activities). Please reach out to land use staff if interested in coordinating an event/activity. Past examples: Storm Drain Marker program with CT DEP and the Boy Scout Troop (this could use an update).

Regarding POCD:

- As you likely know, the town is undergoing the POCD process. A recent memo went out to all commissions asking for input for the POCD. We are asking the following key questions.
 1. What are the key goals for your department/commission in the next 10 years?
 2. Do you have projects you'd like to see happen? Examples – new infrastructure, sustainability projects, health, safety, and community improvements?
 3. Do you have a recent plan or initiative you've created that you would like to see incorporated into town priorities?
- The Land Use office has also sent out an invitation to the Commission Chair to attend a roundtable meeting at the end of the month where he can share the commission's comments. If he's not able to attend he may also appoint another representative to attend instead.
- CC priorities for Open Space:

- o Improving pedestrian friendliness

Molly Johnson

Community Planner



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