

CONSERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING (VIRTUAL)
Thursday, November 10, 2022, 7:30 P.M.
Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT

REGULAR MEETING (VIRTUAL)

Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission (Virtual)
Thu, Nov 10, 2022 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM (EST)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/604137989>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1 \(408\) 650-3123](tel:+14086503123)

Access Code: 604-137-989

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- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - A. Seating of Alternate
- II. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – October 10, 2022
- III. Additions to the Agenda
- IV. Recognition of Guests: Opportunity for citizens to briefly address the Commission on non-agenda items.
- V. Violations
 - A. Ralph and Lynn LaGuardia, 25 Mai Road – Violation of Conservation Easement Update
 - 1. Motion to Move to Executive Session
- VI. New Applications - None
- VII. Pending Applications - None
- VIII. Wetlands Agent Approvals / Compliance Updates
- IX. Pre-applications - None

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
AGENDA (cont.)
REGULAR MEETING (VIRTUAL)
Thursday, November 10, 2022, 7:30 P.M.
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X. New Business

XI. Other Pertinent Business

- A. Discussion of the Plan of Conservation and Development Update, Section 2.A., Sustainability
- B. Annual Report
- C. CT RC&D ERT Update
- D. Schedule of Meetings for 2023
- E. Articles for the Winter edition of Hebron Views

XII. Correspondence

- A. Article by Ann Zitkus, titled, “New State Grant Opportunity for Climate Smart Agriculture”
- B. Conservation Commission Schedule of Meetings for 2023

XIII. Liaison Reports

- A. Open Space Land Acquisition Committee
- B. Salmon River Watershed Partnership
- C. CT Association of Wetlands Scientists
- D. CACIWC

XIV. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting – December 8th, 2022 (Virtual)

/dmg

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REGULAR MEETING (VIRTUAL)
Thursday, November 10, 2022, 7:30 P.M.
Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT**

REGULAR MEETING (VIRTUAL)

RECEIVED

Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission (Virtual)
Thu, Nov 10, 2022 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM (EST)

Charles A. Pongracz
2022 NOV -3 P 4:11

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/604137989>

HEBRON TOWN CLERK

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/dmg

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING (VIRTUAL)
Thursday, October 13, 2022, 7:30 P.M.
Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron CT**

RECEIVED

2022 OCT 20 P 5:31
[Signature]
HEBRON TOWN CLERK

MINUTES

Members Present: Dan Seremet, Christopher Frey, Tom Loto, Ann Zitkus

Members Absent: Jasmin Okugic, Joanna Chester

Staff Present: Jim Cordier, Wetlands Agent

Guests and Members of the Public:

I. Call to Order/Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by Tom Loto

A. Seating of Alternate - *Ann Zitkus was seated as a regular member.*

II. Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting - August 11, 2022 (September 8, 2022 Meeting Cancelled)

Amendments:

A. Page 3 of 4, Under section XI. Correspondence, subsection E. - Amend to read "Letter to CT DEEP from the Commission regarding possible Hebron sighting and request for information and assistance"

B. Page 3 of 4, Under section XI. Correspondence - subsection F. - Amend to read "Letter to the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager from the Commission regarding Jumping Worm Situational Awareness and accompanying DEEP-generated Fact Sheet"

MOTION to APPROVE the August 11, 2022 regular meeting minutes as amended.

Motion by: Dan Seremet

Seconded by: Ann Zitkus

Result: Passes (3-0-1, with Christopher Frey abstaining)

III. Additions to Agenda

A. Add subsection A1. - Motion to Move to Executive Session, under section V. Violations

B. Add subsection E. under section XII. Correspondence - Letter from the SWCA Engineers for the Algonquin Gas Pipeline Project

C. Add subsection F. under section XII. Correspondence - DEEP Connecticut Wildlife Late Summer Publication (on the file at the Horton House)

MOTION to AMEND the agenda to include the above items.

*Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting of 10/13/2022
Recording Clerk MPT
Page 1 of 4*

Motion by: Ann Zitkus
Seconded by: Dan Seremet
Result: Passes unanimously (4-0-0)

- IV. Recognition of Guests: Opportunity for citizens to briefly address the Commission on non-agenda items - None

- V. Violations -

A. Ralph and Lynn LaGuardia, 25 Mai Road - Violation of Conservation Easement Update -
A1. Motion to Move into Executive Session

MOTION to MOVE into executive session.

Motion by: Tom Loto
Seconded by: Dan Seremet
Result: Passes (4-0-0)

Executive session was entered at 7:42 P.M.

MOTION to LEAVE executive session and return to the regular meeting.

Motion by: Tom Loto
Seconded by: Dan Seremet
Result: Passes (4-0-0)

Executive session was exited at 7:59 P.M.

- VI. New Applications - None

- VII. Pending Applications - None

- VIII. Wetlands Agent Approvals / Compliance Updates

- Approvals - None

- Compliance Updates - Jim Cordier gave a few updates on the status of some of the applications that had previously been approved by the Commission and/or some of the projects that are happening throughout town, including the Route 94 culverts and the sewer system upgrades.

- IX. Pre-applications - None

- X. New Business - None

- XI. Other Pertinent Business

- A. Discussion of the Plan of Conservation and Development Update, Section 2.A., Sustainability - Ann Zitkus provided an update. This was circulated and Tom Loto and Ann Zitkus made comments. Ann recommended that everyone on the Commission ask "what does it mean to be sustainable?" and provide feedback.
- B. Annual Report - Jim Cordier distributed this, and after evaluation by the Commission he was forwarding it on to the town manager's office.
- C. Jumping Worm Update - Tom Loto said he has been dealing with them in his yard. He said sprinkling ground mustard (already crushed) mixed with water agitates the soil and brings them to the surface, where they can then be grabbed and placed in soapy water. He said the band around their bodies is noticeable compared to regular earth worms. He said that the prevention onus is going to have to primarily lie on the distributors of soil, mulch, and wood chips. Ann Zitkus said she is surprised that the word hasn't gotten out more. She wondered if mixing the mulch (used as a part of a solution for de-icing the roads) with the salt would kill the cocoons, or if spreading the mulch would contribute to the spread of the jumping worms. The Commission members wondered if there is a good way to test for the worms in the soils and other gardening materials. Ann wondered about getting an expert opinion on the topic.
- D. CT RC&D ERT Update - Jim Cordier was in touch with Jeanne Davies and she has been tied up with another project recently.
- E. CACIWC Conference Reminder, October 29th - Was sent in the meeting packet with the PDF materials. Jim Cordier said it will be re-sent with the live links.
- F. Solicitation of articles for the Winter edition of Hebron Views (deadline is November 4th) - Ann Zitkus said if anyone had ideas for things to include in the Hebron Views, feel free to share them. She mentioned grants that are available for farmers, in particular, as something to possibly write about.

XII. Correspondence

- A. Notice of Decision, Re: Petition 2022-07, Mill at Stonecroft Condominium Association, % 10 Jeremy Way, Hebron - Felling of Trees Within the regulated Area
- B. Notice of Cancellation of the September 8, 2022 Conservation Commission Regular Meeting
- C. Letter to Director of Planning and Development Matt Bordeaux from Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission Chairman Tom Loto expressing the Commission's support and recommendation to the Hebron Board of Selectmen that the Town pursue an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program application to CT DEEP relative to the possible purchase of the O'Conner properties (Lots #49-2, 49-3, and 50-5) of approximately 115.36 acres located at 102 Chittenden and Hoadly Roads
- D. Draft of the Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission Annual Report for FY 21-22 for consideration by the Commission and submission to the Town (in meeting support materials.
- E. Letter from the SWCA Engineers for the Algonquin Gas Pipeline Project
- F. DEEP Connecticut Wildlife Late Summer Publication (on the file at the Horton House)

XIII. Liaison Reports

- A. OSLAC - Chris Frey said they haven't met for a while - Behind the scenes they have been working on the acquisition of the O'Conner property.

B. Salmon River Watershed Partnership - Chris Frey said Pat Young is holding sessions on invertebrate collection for the purposes of determining water quality. The Salmon River Watershed area was designated as a high water quality area that is particularly worthy of preservation.

C. CT Association of Wetlands Scientists - No update.

XIV. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting - November 10th, 2022 (Virtual)

MOTION to ADJOURN the October 13, 2022 regular meeting at 9:09 P.M.

Motion by: Christopher Frey

Seconded by: Tom Loto

Result: Passes unanimously (4-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Thornberg

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Schedule of Meetings
2023

January 12

February 9

March 9

April 13

May 11

June 8

July 13

August 10

September 14

October 12

November 9

December 14

January 11, 2024

The Hebron Conservation Commission will conduct their 2023 meetings at 7:30 P. M. in the:

Selectmen's Meeting Room
Hebron Town Office Building
15 Gilead Street
Hebron, CT

New State Grant Opportunity for Climate Smart Agriculture

The State of Connecticut will soon be awarding grants for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry practices. This is because forests and vegetation are our allies in fighting climate disruption. They take in enormous amounts of carbon dioxide from the air (reducing the greenhouse effect of this gas) and store carbon, much of it in the soil. They simultaneously provide ecosystem services of making clean air, water filtration and storage, and supporting all manner of life. As carbon increases in soil, soil also becomes more productive/life supportive.

“The goal of the grant program is to provide funds to entities throughout Connecticut to support farmers and producers who are implementing Climate Smart Agricultural Practices (CSAP) as identified by USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)” (from <https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/ADaRC/ADaRC/Grants/Climate-Smart-Agriculture-and-Forestry-Grant> where more info is available.)

Some of the many examples of Climate Smart Agricultural Practices noted on NRCS website (all the below increase carbon in soil):

- Silvopasture - establishment and management of desired tree and forage species on the same land. This may provide forage, shade or shelter for livestock, reduce soil and wind erosion, improve water quality, increase wildlife and pollinator habitat and build soil health.
- Multi-Story Cropping - managing an overstory of trees/shrubs with understory plants that are separately managed for a variety of products. This may improve biodiversity and build soil health. [Managing a Food Forest is related to this, in which there are different layers of plants, starting from the canopy layer of tall trees, dwarf trees, bushes and shrubs, herbs, vines, and root crops.]
- Alley Cropping - planting trees or shrubs in sets of rows with crops or forages produced between the woody plants. This may improve crop or forage quality, reduce wind and water erosion, improve water quality and build soil health.
- A Riparian Forest Buffer is an area covered by trees or shrubs that is located near, and generally uphill from, a body of water. Implementing a riparian forest buffers may improve water quality, restore diversity of riparian plant communities, provide wildlife habitat and improve stream conditions for certain species.

Farmers and to-be farmers are encouraged to think big. There are **three grant allocation categories**:

1. \$1,000,000 to \$1.5 million; Project duration: 3-5 years
2. \$500,000 to \$999,999; Project duration: 2-3 years
3. \$250,000 to \$499,999; Project duration: no more than 2 years

For all grant categories, there is no match requirement; administrative/indirect costs are allowable; and all agricultural commodities and production types are eligible (conventional, organic, forestry, soil/water, etc.). Fifty percent advance of funds will be provided. Periodic reporting, data collection, and participation in quartering awardee meetings will be required.

Timeline:

Applications open November 15, 2022; deadline is January 15, 2023

Awards Announced February 10, 2023. Contracts will start May 1, 2023

Check <https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/ADaRC/ADaRC/Grants/Climate-Smart-Agriculture-and-Forestry-Grant> for components of projects that will be given priority and a contact for further assistance; also <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/climate/climate-smart-mitigation-activities>





