

CONSERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING (VIRTUAL)
Thursday, May 11, 2023, 7:30 P.M.
Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT

REGULAR MEETING (VIRTUAL)

RECEIVED

2023 MAY -5 A 9:20
EDR Asst.
HEBRON TOWN CLERK

Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission Regular Meeting (Virtual)

May 11, 2023, 7:30 – 10:30 PM (America/New York)

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- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - A. Seating of Alternate
- II. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – April 13, 2023
- 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 (if warranted)
- VI. New Applications
 - A. 2023-9 – Parcels 12-9 B and C, Church St., Amston, Hebron Pollinator Pathways, c/o Michele Sinkez, 209 Millstream Road, Amston CT, Pond Site Project / Demonstration Including Pollinator-friendly Landscape Plantings Near the Pond at the Raymond Brook Preserve.
- VII. Pending Applications - None
- VIII. Wetlands Agent Approvals / Compliance Updates

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
AGENDA (cont.)
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IX. Pre-applications - None

X. New Business - None

XI. Other Pertinent Business

- A. Plan of Conservation and Development Input
- B. Airline Trail State Park Master Plan

XII. Correspondence

- A. Email from J. Cordier to Michelle Sinkez dated March 17 regarding guidance for the Pollinator Pathways Landscaping Project
- B. Email from A. Zitkus, with attachment, to Commission Members regarding draft article on Maintaining Fields for Wildlife for submission to the Hebron Views

XIII. Liaison Reports

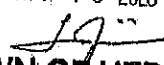
- A. Open Space Land Acquisition Committee
- B. Salmon River Watershed Partnership
- C. EPA / DEEP / Last Green Valley Cyanobacteria Lake Monitoring Project

XIV. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting – June 8th, 2023 (Virtual)

/dmg

**TOWN OF HEBRON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting (Virtual)
Thursday, April 13, 2023 - 7:30 PM**

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
APR 18 2023

TOWN OF HEBRON

MINUTES

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Tom Loto called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. Ann Zitkus was seated as alternate in place of Dan Seremet.

Members Present: Tom Loto (Chair), Christopher Frey (Vice-Chair), Joanna Chester, Jasmin Okugic, Ann Zitkus

Members Absent: Dan Seremet

Staff Present: Jim Cordier (Wetlands Agent)

Guests: Candace O'Shea, Michele Sinkez, Sara Walling

II. Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2023 (Regular Meeting)

The following amendments were submitted:

1. Section XIV.B

1. Amend “impacts from salt water” to “impacts from road salt”
2. Strike “and proposed DPW sites.”
3. Amend “upticks in salt water numbers” to “upticks in road salt impacts”
4. Strike second sentence

Motion by C. Frey and seconded by J. Okugic to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Additions to Agenda

None.

IV. Recognition of Guests

None.

V. Violations

- A. Ralph and Lynn LaGuardia, 25 Mai Road – Violation of Conservation Easement Update** – J. Cordier reached out to counsel for an update and is awaiting a response.

VI. New Applications

- A. Declaration of Non-regulated Use (No Permit Designation) and Accompanying Endorsement, Hebron Pollinator Pathway, c/o Michele Sinkez, 209 Millstream Road, Amston, CT, Pond Site Project/Demonstration Including Pollinator-friendly Landscape Plantings on the East Side of the Pond at the Raymond Brook Preserve.**

It was noted this item was not submitted as an application, but placed here for discussion purposes. The Hebron Pollinator Pathway (HPP) received a \$1,000 grant

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from the Hartford Audubon Society. They are seeking assent from the Commission to plant bird and pollinator-friendly trees, shrubs, and perennials along the east side of the pond at Raymond Brook Preserve. M. Sinkez and C. O'Shea presented the HPP's plan, including goals of the project. Proposed plantings were selected for food and protection needs for native birds, as well as other factors. Reasons for choosing this site were reviewed, as was the proposed process of site preparation and initial plant installation. There was discussion regarding the application procedure, and what activities are submitted as applications. The Commission feels this should come as a new application.

Motion by T. Loto and seconded by J. Chester to recommend this item come back to the Commission as a formal application. The motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion on many topics pertaining to the site, including: invasive and native plants, soil erosion, overall pond health, and mowing/maintenance practices.

VII. Pending Applications

None.

VIII. Wetlands Agent Approvals/Compliance Updates

J. Cordier reported no significant updates or pending projects.

IX. Pre-Applications

None.

X. New Business

None.

XI. Other Pertinent Business

A. CT RC&D ERT Update

J. Cordier stated ten hard copies of the document have been received, and electronic copies are available as well.

B. Hebron Maple Fest

A. Zitkus reported the Commission's booth (shared with OSLAC and Parks and Rec) was well-attended. Information on Open Space trails, as well as jumping worms, was provided at the booth. A. Zitkus noted more residents reported jumping worm issues compared to last year. She suggested writing an article, including guidelines for dealing with jumping worms, to be published in the community.

XII. Correspondence

Discussion on recent correspondence saw further detail on the EZ Map of Hebron created by A. and F. Zitkus, which includes information on trails, amenities, and attractions. J. Cordier also shared a link to maps and data regarding freshwater and macroinvertebrate counts, which includes several of Hebron's watercourses.

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XIII. Liaison Reports

A. Open Space Land Acquisition Committee

C. Frey reported OSLAC received the Group Conservation Award from Joshua Land Trust, noting it is a testament to the dedication of those involved. There was some discussion regarding funding for Open Spaces.

XIV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Walcott (Board Clerk)

APPLICATION

Inland Wetlands and
Watercourses Permit

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF HEBRON
15 Gilead Street
Hebron, CT 06248
(860) 228-5971
fax: (860) 228-5980



Site Location RAYMOND BROOK PRESERVE, AMSTON CT 06231 Assessors Map 1392 Lot 12-90, 12-96 Zone R-1 1.D.488
Street Address 175 CHURCH ST. Total Parcel Acreage 3.5 Total Area of Wetlands Disturbance 0

Owner of Record TOWN OF HEBRON % PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT. Telephone (H) _____ (W) 860-228-5971
Address 15 GILEAD ST. HEBRON CT 06248 Mailing Address SAME
Address _____ Mailing Address _____

Applicant HEBRON POLLINATOR HIGHWAYS % MICHELLE SINKER Telephone (H) 860-228-1520 (W) _____
Address 209 MILLSTREAM ROAD, AMSTON CT 06231 Mailing Address _____
Address _____ Mailing Address _____

Agent/Lessee _____ Telephone (H) _____ (W) _____
Address _____ Mailing Address _____
Address _____ Mailing Address _____

To the Conservation Commission:

I, MICHELLE SINKER, hereby apply for an Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Permit, pursuant to
Section(s) 6, 7, & 8 of the Hebron Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Regulations for: (describe
proposed regulated activities) GIVEN THE APPROVAL OF AND IN COOPERATION WITH THE HEBRON PARKS AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT, ESTABLISH A POND SITE PROJECT / DEMONSTRATION, INCLUDING POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS
IN THE VICINITY OF THE POND AT THE TOWN-OWNED RAYMOND BROOK PRESERVE.

The undersigned hereby applies for an Inland Wetland and Watercourses permit for the property described herein and
confirms that:

- 1) He is familiar with the currently effective Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, Town of Hebron.
- 2) The statements and representation contained herein and in all supporting documents are true to the best of his knowledge.
- 3) By making this application, he gives his permission to the Conservation Commission or its representative to enter the portions of the applicant's premises which are the subject of this application for the purpose of inspection and investigation and otherwise evaluating the merits of the application.

Michelle Sinker
Signature of Owner (s)

Signature of Agent/Lessee

Michelle Sinker
Signature of Applicant

NOTICE: This application shall be in compliance with Section 7 of the Hebron Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations and accompanied by the required fee, assessors field card, 12 copies of a certified plot plan bearing the raised seal of the Engineer and Surveyor licensed in the State of Connecticut, evidence of good standing with the Tax Collector's office and other materials as may be required by the Town of Hebron Zoning Regulations and/or building code, names and addresses of all property owners within 200 feet of the boundaries of the subject parcel keyed to a map delineating a 200 foot radius around the subject site, the limits of clearing, location of adjacent wells, septic systems, ponds, wetlands, watercourses and/or other information as may be required by policies of the Conservation Commission.

Conservation and Wetlands Commissions Meeting:

May 11, 2023

Updated addendum to Audubon Grant Landscape Proposal

This presentation addresses the concerns and input of the HCWC as discussed in the April 13th meeting and the April 16th in-person Audubon Grant Landscape proposal to the Hebron Park and Recreation Department.

Questions were raised pertaining to site suitability of the plant choices and the site preparation and the landscape plan was given scrutiny. We provided assurance that the concerns raised can be effectively addressed and are easy to resolve.

1. Our further research confirmed that our selected plant species are both suitable and advantageous to wetlands conditions. These plants can make effective buffers for the pond edge.
2. Our investigation into soil erosion control products and methods has resulted in anticipation of additional labor and funds to mitigate soil erosion at the landscape site. We have identified several erosion control products which are ideal for the site conditions.
3. Given the remaining time for site preparation and targeted seasonal planting of potted woodland trees and shrubs around the border of the garden, many of the herbaceous perennials will likely be planted as bare root in the fall within the interior space of the garden.
4. Our position holds that this landscape design can easily be extended north around the pond border as more invasive species are removed. We would envision the addition of trees such as River Birches, more Swamp Alders, etc. as well as additional buffer shrubs and perennials

We would very much appreciate having the committee review the new PowerPoint presentation which provides detailed information regarding our proposed approach. We look forward to discussing with you at the May 11 meeting.

Michele Sinkez

Candace O'Shea

Hebron Pollinator Pathway

Hebron Pollinator Pathway Pond Site Project

Raymond Brook Preserve - Church St Entrance



The Process

Spring Site Preparation 2023

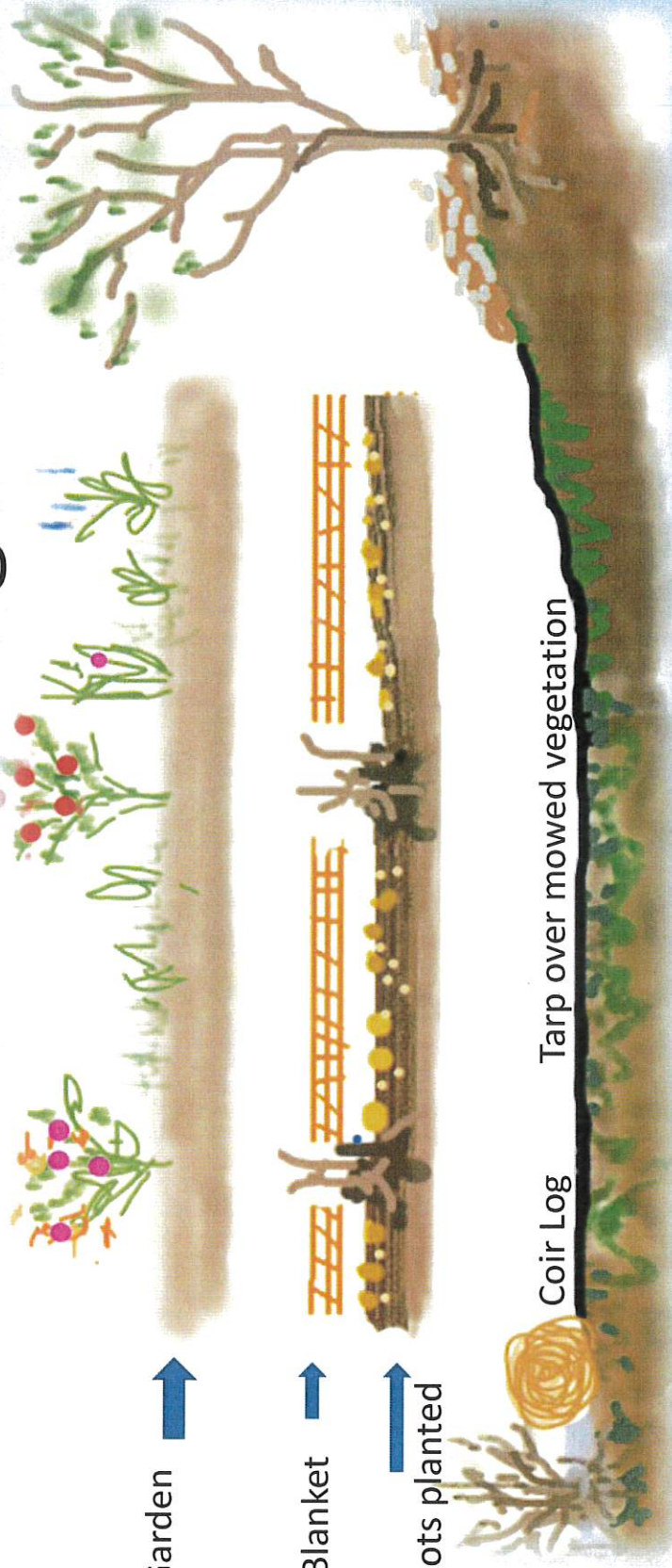
- Weed whack/mow area. Cut back/remove and discard invasives.
 - Relocate Native Blackberries to pond edge
 - Relocate Clump Goldenrod across the trail
- Secure black Silage tarp to interior of garden
 - Install Coir Logs for erosion control at tarp/pond edge

Audubon Garden Planting Process

Spring '24 Garden 

Fall '23
Erosion Control Blanket 
Tarp removed
Seeded + bare roots planted 

Spring '23



Wetland Shrubs Planted

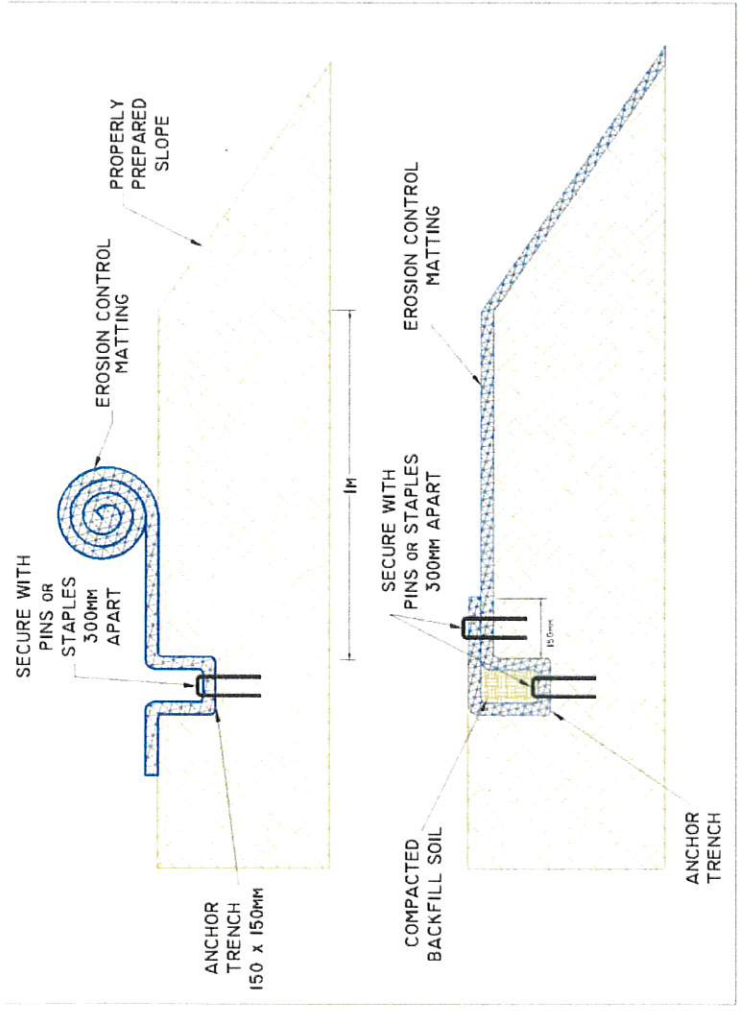
Mowed site with natives relocated

Border trees/shrubs planted

Fall Site preparation and Fall Planting

- Remove silage tarp, mark location of bare root perennials,
- Sow fall seed
- Roll out Erosion Control Blanket ending at Coir Logs
- Plant bare root perennials within the jute blanket spaces
- Apply fresh wood chip mulch

Erosion Control Blanket (ECB) Installation



Note: Where possible BioGrippers are preferred

Jute Erosion Control Cloth -



48" wide x 10 yards

\$49.95

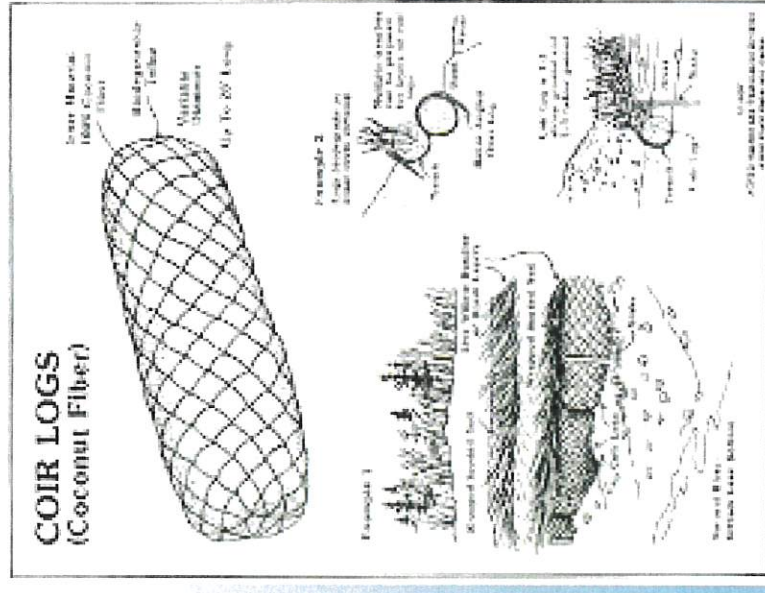
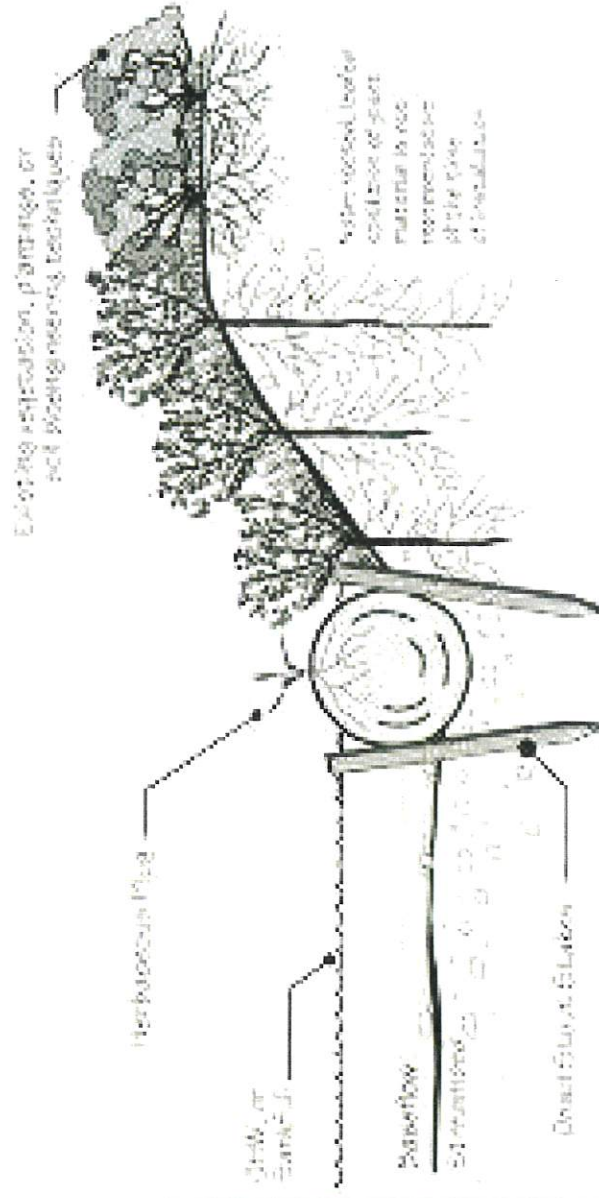
FREE delivery Amazon

Silage Tarp 6 mil
Black/White
Plastic Sheeting

\$69.72 20' x 40'
Farm Supply



Coir Log Installation Options



Audubon Pollinator Garden Plant Phases

Phase 1 Spring (23)

Uplands Trail border

- 3 x Serviceberry
- 1 x Eastern Redbud
- 4 x Winterberry (1 male)
- 3 x Clethra Alnifolia Ruby Spice

• Side adjacent to Multiflora

- 3 x highbush blueberries
- 3 St John's Wort

• Pond water edge

- 3 x buttonbush
- 3 x Red Twig Dogwood

Phase 2 Fall

Main Trail border

- 3 little bluestem grass
- 3 x Cheyenne Sky grass
- 3 x butterfly weed

Garden Interior, bare root options

- Coneflowers,
- Rudbeckia,
- Swamp Milkweed,
- Butterfly Milkweed
- Joe Pye
- Culver's Root
- Lobelia,
- Liatris,
- Marsh Marigold
- Sneezeweed
- Lowbush Blueberry

[illegible]

Plant order

Inventory

Prides Corner wholesale

Note:

Prairie Moon bare root
prices are not included
and will be a significant
reduction in expense

Inventory List Black Phase 1 Blue Phase 2 (to change to bare root)

| | Name | Common name | H x W | Unit Price | Units | total | Quantity in Reorder | Discontinued? |
|-----------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|-------|------------------------|---------------|
| Edible | 1001135 | Vaccinium Angustifolium | Lowbush Blueberry | 1 x 1 | #3 \$13.08 | 6 | 78 | |
| Edible | 1001137 | Vaccinium corymbosum B. Jersey | Highbush Blueberry | 8 x 10 | #3 \$26.63 | 3 | 80 | |
| Perennial | 1003319 | Asclepias incarnata | Swamp Milkweed | 5 x 2 | #2 \$11.85 | 3 | 36 | |
| Perennial | 1003320 | Asclepias tuberos | Butterfly Milkweed | 2' x 2' | #1 \$11.59 | 5 | 58 | |
| Perennial | 1003454 | Caltha palesthus | Marsh Marigold | 1' x | #1 \$8.15 | 7 | 57 | |
| Perennial | 1005310 | Echinacea purpurea | Pow Wow White | 2 x 1+ | #1 \$7.05 | 5 | 35 | |
| Perennial | 1000587 | Eurdtarium Maculatum | Gateway Joe Pye | 5 x 3 | #2 \$9.07 | 3 | 27 | |
| Perennial | 1012841 | Helenium Autumnale | Sneezeweed | 4 x 2 | #2 \$10.60 | 5 | 53 | |
| Perennial | 1004694 | Lobelia siphilitica | Blue Cardinal Flower | 3 x 2 | #1 \$8.15 | 6 | 49 | |
| Perennial | 1011897 | Veronicastrum virginicum "Album" | Culver's Root | 5 x 2 | #2 \$10.72 | 3 | 32 | |
| Perennial | 1000953 | Rudebeckia Fulgisa | Goldsturm | 3 x 3 | #1 7.05 | 3 | 21 | |
| Perennial | 1004139 | Liatris Skpicata | Kobold Original | 3 x 1 | #2 \$9.45 | 5 | 48 | |
| Shrub | 1003293 | Cephalanthus Occidentalis | Button bush | 6 x 5 | #3 24.20 | 3 | 73 | |
| Shrub | 1001757 | Clethera A inifolia | Ruby Spice | 6 x 5 | #3 \$24.20 | 3 | 73 | |
| Shrub | 1003693 | Cornus Stolonifera | Artic Fire Red | 4 x 4 | #3 \$25.46 | 3 | 76 | |
| Shrub | 1004268 | Hypericum x Sunny Boulevard | St Johns Wort | 4 x 4 | #2 \$20.02 | 3 | 60 | |
| Shrub | 1000650 | Ilex serrata x | Apollo | 8 x 8 | #2 \$18.22 | 1 | 18 | |
| Shrub | 1005122 | Ilex Verticillata | Winterberry | 8 x 8 | #2 \$18.91 | 3 | 57 | |
| Tree | 1009386 | A melanochier condensis | Shadblow Serviceberry | 15 x 15 | #7 \$70.55 | 3 | 212 | |
| Tree | 1000575 | Cercis Canadensis - single stem | Eastern Redbud | 20 x 20 | #7 \$84.78 | 1 | 85 | |
| | | | | | | 1,168 | | |
| | | | | | | 674 | Phase 1 Plants | 23 plants |
| | | | | | | 494 | Phase 2 Plants | 54 plants |

James Cordier

From: James Cordier
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 3:23 PM
To: michele sinkez
Cc: Matthew Bordeaux; Craig Bryant
Subject: Pollinator Pathways Raymond Brook Preserve Landscaping Project
Attachments: PP project Permit Application.pdf; Pollinator Powerpoint 23.pdf

Hi Michele,

With this project, we need you to make your presentation to the P&R Commission and get their comments and approval on record in the minutes of their meeting. This info should be an addendum to your application for a permit from us at our May 11th meeting. Attached to the permit application form (which I filled out for you and attached to this message) should be a short summary of your plan stating your objectives and general location, the types of plants and your site preparation and planting methodologies (basically a revised version of your power point document {attached} that incorporates the input from both commissions). Please sign the lower right corner of page 1 of the application and send it back to me prior to our 11 May Conservation Commission meeting. Upon voting and permit issuance, our commission will communicate with P&R regarding perimeter maintenance timing and "no mow" areas near the pond. By state law, the pond's perimeter is a regulated area regardless of municipal ownership.

Regards,

Jim

James Cordier

From: A Zitkus <cthstory10@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 7:40 AM
To: Loto, Tom; Christopher J. Frey (cfrey@GZA.com); Daniel Seremet (Dan.Seremet@aecom.com); Joanna Chester; Jasmin Okugic; James Cordier
Cc: Frank Zitkus; A Zitkus
Subject: for review: draft article for Hebron Views

Hello, All,

Below please find a draft article for submission to the upcoming edition of Hebron Views. The submission is due tomorrow, May 6. Though I am continuing to refine the article and get a photo, please let me know if there are any suggestions, additions, etc.

I am including my annfrankz@att.net email in the recipients just in case this gmail has trouble, but it seems to be working for now.

Thank you for reading!

Ann

Maintaining Fields for Wildlife

The Annual Connecticut Land Conservation Conference was held in person in Middletown last March and one of the workshops there had to do with Maintaining Fields for Wildlife, presented by Peter Picone, Wildlife Biologist, who works at the DEEP Sessions Wildlife Management Area in Burlington, CT.

He explained that low-cut grass does not support much wildlife. However, the areas between two types of habitats, such as field and forest, water and land, are very important for wildlife. These areas are called "Ecotones."

Ecotones should be left with no management for several years except to spot remove invasive plants (non-native and harmful to native habitat) when appropriate.

Thus, the area between a field and a forest is left to become "early successional." Picone advises letting this area grow for 7 years and then brush hogging to keep it as early successional. This area would be anywhere from 25 ft. wide to much wider if the adjoining forest has water or wetlands close by.

[Note: Water/wetlands are another habitat. This habitat requires an ecotone buffer, minimum of 25 feet, ideally left to become native bushes and trees, to keep water clean, cool in summer, provide food for life in water habitat. **Heat is a pollutant** – water is becoming too hot for life. Trees, shrubs around rivers, ponds are very important.)

Different animals use each type of habitat and some need all three to live. Field/Forest Habitat is made up of Herbaceous, Ecotone (Early Successional), and Forest.

When to mow:

Late winter, early spring: No later than end of March since some ground nesting birds lay eggs in early April. Near water, mow no later than mid-March so don't harm turtles. (Spring weather is coming earlier now.)

Possible to mow in winter but not before November, making sure there is a hard frost first. Best to leave plants alone for food and cover through the winter.

Where to mow:

No more than one-half field per year so don't remove all of habitat at one time. It is actually much better to mow just 1/3 of a field each year but is hard to keep track of this. So Picone labels 1/2 of field as A, other half as B. He mows A on odd years, B on even years.

How to mow: 6 to 10 inches high. Flail mower is ideal because mulches and feeds earth.

The Belding Wildlife Management Area in Vernon is a field managed by Jane Seymour which is filled with bee balm, echinacea, helianthus, and Indian switchgrass.

Some other good field plants: Deer Tongue (*Panicum clandestinum*), Evening Primrose. It is advised to plant seeds or possibly transfer plants from an area known to be free of jumping worm cocoons. Ernst Seeds is a good source of seeds.

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