

CONSERVATION COMMISSION AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING (VIRTUAL)  
Thursday, February 13, 2025, 7:30 P.M.  
Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT  
REGULAR MEETING (VIRTUAL)

RECEIVED  
2025 FEB -7 A 9:59  
CID/Ksst.  
HEBRON TOWN CLERK

Conservation Commission Regular Meeting (Virtual)  
Feb 13, 2025, 7:30 – 10:30 PM (America/New\_York)

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REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2025

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
  - A. Seating of Alternate
- II. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – January 9, 2025
- III. Additions to the Agenda
- IV. Recognition of Guests: Opportunity for citizens to briefly address the Commission on non-agenda items.
- V. Violations
- VI. Pending Applications
  - A. **Petition 2025-2; Church Street, Parcel 12-18, Lot 4, Comer, Bria, Construction of a Nursery Farm Market with Greenhouse and Associated Parking with 0.05 Acres of Activity Within the Upland Review Area**
  - B. **Petition 2025-3; Church Street, Parcel 12-18, Lot 3, Comer, Bria, Construction of a Mini Golf Course and Associated Pavilion, Clubhouse and Parking with 0.38 Acres of Activity Within the Upland Review Area**
- VII. New Applications

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**AGENDA (cont.)**  
**REGULAR MEETING (VIRTUAL)**  
**Thursday, February 13, 2025, 7:30 P.M.**  
**Town Office Building, 15 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT**

VIII. Wetlands Agent Approvals

IX. Pre-applications

X. New Business

- A. Recommendation to the Hebron Board of Selectmen re: acceptance of the proposed 8.55 acres of Open Space as a Conservation Easement associated with the expansion of the Hillside Farms Apartments, approved by the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission

XI. Other Pertinent Business

- A. Environmental Review Team Survey Progress Report re: O’Conner Open Space Parcel

XII. Correspondence

- A. Legal Notice of Decision dated January 14, 2025, re: Bobby and Diana Bruneau, 564 East Street Hebron, CT 06248, Subdivide an 8.26 Acre Parcel into three lots with No Proposed Activities within the Inland Wetlands Regulated Area (on file at the Horton House)
- B. Correspondence dated January 15, from CT DEEP to J. Cordier re: Connecticut Wildlife Magazine (on file at the Horton House)
- C. Correspondence dated January 30, 2025, from J. Chester to Commission Members re: CT Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, CT. (sent to Commission Members by way of separate email)
- D. Correspondence dated February 4, 2025, from J. Cordier to D. Lanza re: Article Submission to the Hebron Views (attached)

XIII. Liaison Reports

- A. Open Space Land Acquisition Committee
- B. Salmon River Watershed Partnership
- C. Hebron Trail Rangers

XIV. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting – March 13, 2025 (Virtual)

**TOWN OF HEBRON  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting (Virtual)  
Thursday, January 9, 2025 - 7:30 PM**

RECEIVED  
2025 JAN 15 A 10:31  
*[Signature]*  
HEBRON TOWN CLERK

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

T. Loto began the meeting at 7:34 p.m. No alternates were seated.

**Members Present:** Tom Loto (Chair), Chris Frey (Vice-Chair), Dan Seremet, Joanna Chester

**Members Absent:** Jasmin Okugic

**Staff Present:** Jim Cordier, Matthew Bordeaux, Craig Bryant

**Guests:** Sean & Bria Comer, Bob Doane, Donna & Bobby Bruneau, Mark Reynolds

**II. Approval of Minutes - November 14, 2024 (Regular Meeting)**

**Motion by C. Frey and seconded by J. Chester to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 14<sup>th</sup> as submitted. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).**

**III. Additions to the Agenda**

None.

**IV. Recognition of Guests**

None.

**V. Violations**

None.

**VI. Pending Applications**

None.

**VII. New Applications**

**A. Petition 2025-1; 564 East Street, Bruneau, Bobby and Donna, Subdivide an 8.26 Acre Parcel Into Three Lots with No Proposed Activities Within the Inland Wetlands Regulated Area**

B. Doane, engineer/land surveyor presenting on behalf of the applicant, reviewed the proposal, which seeks to split an existing parcel into three lots. Proposed lot sizes, site layout and topography, future construction plans, and ground- and stormwater management measures were discussed. Commission members sought clarification on tree clearing, rain garden maintenance, impacts from groundwater diversion, drainage, and the size of proposed buildings on the two new lots. Following a

**TOWN OF HEBRON  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting (Virtual)  
Thursday, January 9, 2025 - 7:30 PM**

question from D. Seremet, B. Doane stated some excavated material will be reused as fill in other portions of the site, while some fill will be brought in to use under slabs.

**Motion by D. Seremet and seconded by J. Chester to approve Petition 2025-1; 564 East Street, Bruneau, Bobby and Donna, Subdivide an 8.26 Acre Parcel Into Three Lots with No Proposed Activities Within the Inland Wetlands Regulated Area, with the following conditions:**

- 1. Notify the Wetlands Agent for inspection of sedimentation and erosion control measures prior to construction.**
- 2. The applicant must return to the commission if any significant changes are made during the Planning and Zoning process.**
- 3. Include the stockpile areas and appropriate erosion controls around them on Lots 2 and 3 in the plan.**

**The motion passed unanimously (4-0).**

**B. Petition 2025-2; Church Street, Parcel 12-18, Lot 4, Comer, Bria, Construction of a Nursery Farm Market with Greenhouse and Associated Parking with 0.05 Acres of Activity Within the Upland Review Area**

**C. Petition 2025-3; Church Street, Parcel 12-18, Lot 3, Comer, Bria, Construction of a Mini Golf Course and Associated Pavilion, Clubhouse and Parking with 0.38 Acres of Activity Within the Upland Review Area**

M. Reynolds, engineer presenting on behalf of the applicant, reviewed site layout, topography, proposed structures and improvements, and stormwater management via a proposed retention area. No impacts to the wetlands, located at the back of the parcels, is anticipated. Activity occurring in roughly 0.43 acres of the Upland Review Area is proposed. PZC approval for the site plan and Special Permit is also required.

B. Comer confirmed both businesses will be largely seasonal.

There was discussion on plantings, particularly around the stormwater retention area, as well as an existing but sparse stonewall along the road frontage, which will be consolidated and reused around the entrance, and anticipated drainage patterns. M. Reynolds stated he will meet with Town staff, including the Town Engineer, next week to present a plan for their review. Following a question from J. Chester, M. Reynolds stated there is no risk of flooding or similar impacts to abutting neighbors, as there is zero increase in runoff from the site. He also noted that is the standard the plan is required to meet. Commissioners discussed potential conditions for approval, including landscaping with native species and conservation mixes, restriction of

**TOWN OF HEBRON  
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underground storage tanks, stockpile details, and signs noting the delineation of the Upland Review Area.

**VIII. Wetlands Agent Approvals**

None.

**IX. Pre-Applications**

None.

**X. New Business**

**A. Referral of Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission - Petition 2024-29 & 30; Petition of the Town of Hebron Parks and Recreation Department for Special Permit and associated Site Plan to construct a dog park and associated improvements on approximately 1.5 acres at Parcel 12-9C Church St, part of the Raymond Brook Preserve, Residence-1 District**

M. Bordeaux and C. Bryant reviewed the ARPA-funded project to construct a dog park on Town-owned Open Space. Proposed improvements are the installation of a vinyl coated fence with entrance and access gates, dog waste stations, and trash receptacles. No wetlands activity is proposed. A public hearing is scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup>. Future improvements may include a well to provide a water source for the dogs, as well as picnic tables, benches, and shade trees.

**XI. Other Pertinent Business**

**A. Election of Officers**

**Nomination by D. Seremet and seconded by J. Chester for Tom Loto as Chair. The vote passed unanimously (4-0).**

**Nomination by D. Seremet and seconded by J. Chester for Chris Frey as Vice Chair. The vote passed unanimously (4-0).**

**Nomination by T. Loto and seconded by C. Frey for Dan Seremet as Secretary. The vote passed unanimously (4-0).**

**XII. Correspondence**

Items A, C, and D were included, in full, in the published agenda package, available on the Town's website. There was brief discussion on public concerns including development in Hebron Center and the proposed dog park.

**TOWN OF HEBRON  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
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- A.** Correspondence dated December 17, 2024, from the Connecticut Siting Council to Thomas Loto, regarding **Application of Tarpon Towers III, LLC and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the Construction, Maintenance and Operation of a Wireless Telecommunications Facility at 740 Main Street, Andover, CT.** The foregoing correspondence was an obligatory notice under CGS 16-501 to municipalities located less than 2,500 feet from a proposed facility.
- B.** Correspondence dated December 20, 2024, from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council to J. Cordier, titled, “Updates and Highlights”. Publication is on file at the Horton House.
- C.** Legal Notice of Decision dated November 14, 2024, posted by the Town Clerk for the Hebron Conservation Commission
- D.** Correspondence dated December 31, 2024, from Jean Tulumieri to the Hebron Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission, regarding development in the Hebron Center. Documents attached.

**XIII. Liaison Reports**

**A. Open Space Land Acquisition Committee**

C. Frey had no significant updates. There was brief discussion on potentially available properties.

**B. Salmon River Watershed Partnership**

C. Frey noted a recent meeting involving Pat Young, representatives of the eleven towns comprising the partnership, and CT legislators including Chris Murphy and Joe Courtney.

**C. Hebron Trail Rangers**

J. Chester had no significant updates. There was discussion on equipment purchases, grant opportunities, and upcoming meetings.

**XIV. Adjournment**

**Motion by T. Loto and seconded by J. Chester to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously (4-0).**

The next regular meeting will be February 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Meeting adjourned at 10:00 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



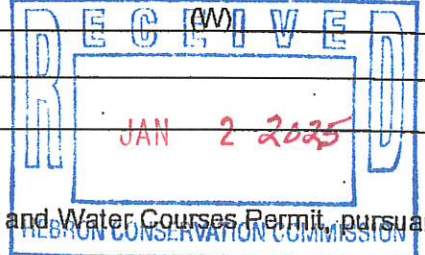
File No:	
Received:	
Approved:	
Denied:	
Fee Paid:	

Site Location LOT 3 - Ellenberg Subdivision Assessors Map 12 Lot 18 Zone NC  
 Street Address RT 85 - Church St Total Parcel Acreage \_\_\_\_\_ Total Area of Wetlands Disturbance 0-

Owner of Record David Ellenberg Telephone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address 1661 NW 143RD Mailing Address SAME  
 Address Pembroke, Pines FL 33028 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: dave\_ellenberg@hotmail.com

Applicant Bria Comer Telephone (H) 860-335-3222 (W) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address 220 Gilead St. Mailing Address SAME  
 Address Hebron, CT 06248 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: hebronminigolf@gmail.com

Agent/Lessee \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_



To the Conservation Commission:  
 I, Bria Comer, hereby apply for and Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Permit, pursuant to Section(s) 7.1 of the Hebron Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Regulations for: (describe proposed regulated activities) Construction of a mini golf course and associated parking, clubhouse, pavilion.  
0.38 Ac. of Activity IN URA For Stormwater Basin

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.

David G. Ellenberg Signature of Owner (s)  
Bria Comer Signature of Agent/Lessee  
Bria Comer 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.

Pd. 1/9/2025 CK #2176 Dmg

APPLICATION

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



File No:	
Received:	
Approved:	
Denied:	
Fee Paid:	

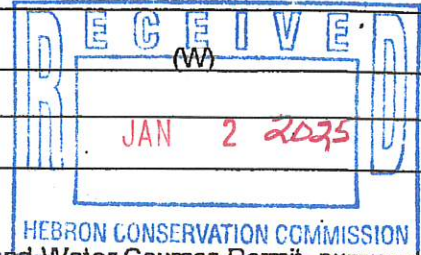
Inland Wetlands and  
Watercourses Permit

Site Location Lot 4 - Ellenberg Subdivision Assessors Map 12 Lot 18 Zone MC  
Street Address RT. 85 Church St Total Parcel Acreage \_\_\_\_\_ Total Area of Wetlands Disturbance -0-

Owner of Record <u>David Ellenberg</u>	Telephone (H) _____ (W) _____
Address <u>1661 NW 143RD</u>	Mailing Address <u>SAME</u>
Address <u>Pembroke Pines FL 33028</u>	Mailing Address _____
Email: <u>dave_ellenberg@hotmail.com</u>	

Applicant <u>Bria Comer</u>	Telephone (H) <u>860-335-3222</u> (W) _____
Address <u>220 Gilead St.</u>	Mailing Address <u>SAME</u>
Address <u>Hebron CT 06248</u>	Mailing Address _____
Email: <u>hebronminigolf@gmail.com</u>	

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



To the Conservation Commission:

I, Bria Comer, hereby apply for and Inland Wetlands and ~~Water Courses Permit~~, pursuant to Section(s) 7.1 of the Hebron Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Regulations for: (describe proposed regulated activities) Construction of A Nursery farm market with associated parking & greenhouse.  
0.05 ACRES OF ACTIVITY IN URA FOR Stormwater Basin

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.

David G. Ellenberg  
Signature of Owner (s)

Bria Comer  
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.

Pr. 1/2/2025 Ct. #2177 Dmg



**TOWN OF HEBRON  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**TO:** Conservation Commission

**FROM:** Matthew R. Bordeaux, Town Planner

**DATE:** February 5, 2025

**RE: Recommendation on Acceptance of Conservation Easement**

The Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission is in receipt of a new application to add 16 new residential apartments to the existing Hillside Farms Apartments at 102 Wellswood Rd. As part of the project, the applicant is proposing to satisfy the Hebron Zoning Regulations Section 2.F.4.3.3 by setting aside 8.55 acres of open space as a Conservation Easement along the stream corridor as depicted on the plan, attached.

The project area is located upgradient from a tributary branch of the Raymond Brook, a watercourse of high importance to the Town of Hebron. The regulated area is delineated on Sheet MA-1. There is no activity proposed in the regulated area or in the regulated 100' upland review area. It is typical for the Conservation Commission to make a recommendation regarding the acceptance of a conservation easement to the Board of Selectmen.

**Draft Motion:**

*Move to recommend to the Hebron Board of Selectmen the acceptance of the proposed Conservation Easement associated with the expansion of the Hillside Farms Apartments approved by the Hebron Planning and Zoning Commission. The proposed open space set-aside would protect an important tributary branch of the Raymond Brook.*

MRB

H:\Planning Department\Boards & Commissions\PZC\Applications\2024\2024-31 & 32-102 Wellswood Road\Conservation Commission Referral\Acceptance of Conservation Easement.docx

Attach.

# ZONING DATA TABLE

## PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT - SECTION 2.F.4

Existing Zone: R-1 (Residential) (32 Existing Units + 16 Proposed Units) = 48 Units @ 20% Restricted Affordable

Regulation	Section	Required	Proposed
Minimum Parcel Size	2.F.4.3.1	8 Acres	15.87 Acres
Minimum Parcel Frontage	2.4.4.3.1	50 Feet	887.64 Feet
Maximum Density	2.F.4.3.2	5.5 Units per Acre	4.31 Units per Acre*
Minimum Setbacks	2.F.4.3.4		
Front Yard		100 Feet	70.7± Feet **
Side Yard		50 Feet	32.2± Feet **
Rear Yard		50 Feet	330.2 Feet
Maximum Building Height	2.F.4.4		
Residential Building		2 ½ Stories or 35 Feet	2 Stories - 25 Feet
Accessory Building		1 ½ Stories or 25 Feet	1 Story - 15 Feet
Minimum Building Separation	2.F.4.6	Height of Taller Building	25 Feet
Maximum Dwelling Units per Building	2.F.4.6	4 Units	4 Units
Minimum Floor Area	2.F.4.4	750 Square Feet	858 +/- Square Feet
Maximum Building Coverage	2.F.4.4	20 Percent	6.4 Percent
Minimum Landscape Buffer	2.F.4.5.2.e	15 Feet	20.7 Feet
Open Space	2.F.4.3.3.a	40 Percent	53.9+/- Percent
Minimum Parking - 48 Units X 2.5 Spaces	2.F.4.5.3.a	120 Spaces	120 Spaces

\* Based on Net Land Area  
\*\* Existing Non-Conformity

## NET LAND AREA CALCULATION

### SECTION 2.F.4.3.2

Parcel Area minus:

- Watercourses, Waterbodies, Ponds, Streams
- 100-Year Floodplain
- Wetlands, and
- Areas with pre-development grades in excess of twenty percent (20%)

### Net Area Calculation

<b>Gross Lot Area</b>	15.87 Acres
<b>Minus</b>	
Area of Watercourses, Waterbodies, Ponds, Streams	0.00 Acres *
Area of 100-Year Floodplain	0.00 Acres
Area of Wetlands	2.36 Acres
Area of grades in excess of twenty percent (20%)	2.39 Acres (4.77 total X 0.5)
<b>Net Lot Area =</b>	<b>11.12 Acres</b>

\* Included in areas of Wetlands

## REQUIRED PARKING CALCULATION

### SECTION 2.F.4.5.3.a

Required:

There shall be a minimum of two (2) parking spaces per dwelling unit with an additional one-half (½) space per dwelling unit for visitor parking.

48 Existing and Proposed Dwelling Units

2 spaces per Dwelling Unit	96 Spaces
½ space per Dwelling Unit - Visitor	24 Spaces
<b>Total Required Parking Spaces</b>	<b>120 Required Spaces</b>



- Regulated Wetland / Watercourse  
 - Proposed Conservation Easement

HILLSIDE FARMS APARTMENTS

F. A. Hesketh & Associates, Inc.

6 Creamery Brook, East Granby, CT 06026  
Phone (860) 653-8000 Fax (860) 844-8600  
www.faheskeith.com · Landscape Architects



No.	Date	Description

MASTER PLAN  
PREPARED FOR  
**AMIRZAI PROPERTY TRUST, LLC.**  
102 WELLWOOD ROAD  
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT

Date: 12-20-2024 Drawn by: KLL Job no: 2713B  
Scale: 1" = 30' Checked by: DSZ Sheet no: 1 OF 1

MA-1



## *Town of Hebron*

**TOWN OFFICE BUILDING  
15 GILEAD STREET  
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT 06248  
TELEPHONE: (860) 228-5971  
FAX : (860) 228-5980  
[www.hebronct.com](http://www.hebronct.com)**

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CONSERVATION

HEALTH

BUILDING

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

January 14, 2025

Bobby and Diana Bruneau  
564 East Street  
Hebron, CT 06248

**Re: Petition 2025-1; 564 East Street, Hebron, CT, Bruneau, Bobby and Diana, Subdivide an 8.26 Acre Parcel into three lots with No Proposed Activities within the Inland Wetlands Regulated Area**

### **NOTICE OF DECISION**

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bruneau:

After reviewing the application for the subdivision of an 8.26-acre parcel into three lots with no proposed activity within the Inland Wetlands Regulated Area, and based upon the findings in accordance with Section 22a-36 through 41 of the Connecticut General Statutes, **approval** is granted for conducting the activity described in the above-referenced application, with the following conditions:

1. Notify the Wetlands Agent for inspection of sedimentation and erosion control measures prior to construction.
2. The applicant must return to the commission if any significant changes are made during the Planning and Zoning approval process.
3. Include the stockpile areas and appropriate erosion controls around them on Lots 2 and 3 in the plan.

We wish you success in this endeavor. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 860-228-5971, extension 139, or at [jcordier@hebronct.com](mailto:jcordier@hebronct.com)

For the Hebron Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission:

James P. Cordier, MPH RS  
Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent  
Town of Hebron

cc: Matt Bordeaux, Director of Planning and Development  
Tom Loto, Chairman, Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission  
File # 2025-01

## SEEKING SOLITUDE

Earlier this winter, I donned the cross-country skis that I had purchased in the eighties. Like my knee, they were partially plastic, but all the parts seemed to work well together when driven by a stubborn attitude. I sought a convenient place to revisit an old passion of mine, and I remembered the park off Church Street near the center of Town.

Hebron had recently been coated by a four-inch blanket of fluffy snow. The sky had an amethystine appearance, the air was windless, and the temperature was 15 degrees in the afternoon when I ventured out. Despite a chilly morning sunbath, the ground cover was still exceptionally light and powdery. I parked at the Raymond Brook Preserve Church Street parking lot (next to the Church of the Holy Family), which was cleared to its grey-graveled state that morning by our Parks and Rec Department. The topography of the park is flat and very user friendly for beginner to intermediate level cross-country skiers. It is also a great run for the more advanced athlete looking for an abbreviated, close-by speed run with pleasant views.

The glide was fast and effortless, despite the occasional presence of tracks created by human and animal footfalls. A few hundred feet in, I passed a farm and fire pond on the left. It was covered by a snow-frosted sheet of ice – suitable for skating, given proper precautions. Unyielding cat tails persisted along the frozen water's edge – their golden remains having the tattered, downy appearance of partially exploded firecrackers left over from last summer. They awaited the warm spring breezes that will disperse puffy seed-bearing parachutes into the nearby muck and wet meadows to continue their presence.

There was a weathered, railed wooden bridge at the outfall of the pond, resting upon stonework laid by someone in the distant past. The exiting stream could not be silenced, as it continued to babble through openings in the ice sheets. It is one of many feeder streams that make their way toward Raymond Brook and to the pristine Salmon River.

Skimming ahead on what is clearly a country lane bordered by ancient stone walls, I traveled on a wagon road, lined with old growth trees rendered barren by the rigors of the season. Time had frozen, and looking out over the adjacent tan and white hayfields, there was an aura of solace and muted beauty that hung in the frigid air, like the breaths I exhaled. Old roads and trails lace the area and a trek through the preserve can last for as briefly or as long as desired.

I did not feel confined to the established roads and pathways, and I skied into the middle of a meadow where the sky looked bigger. It is difficult to get lost in this place, although Hebron, with its parks and conservation lands, is one of the few beloved places in this state where you really *can* get lost - if you crave adventure.

Location and trail maps to Hebron's Parks and Conservation treasures can be found at <https://hebronct.recdesk.com/Community/Page?pageId=36925> and <https://HebronPaths.org>

Get moving, dress in layers, bring your cell phone and use the buddy system when you venture into the hinterland that makes living here a joy. A woolen hats-off to our thoughtful ancestors, civic leaders, supportive townspeople, and forward thinkers that have preserved these beautiful lands for all our enjoyment! Give a thumbs-up to Hebron's land acquisition set-aside fund at budget time. The appropriation request, at less than ½ of 1% of the budget, it is not an expenditure but an investment and a profound act of kindness we must pass forward to future generations of humanity and wildlife.

"The beauty and charm of the wilderness are his for the asking, for the edges of the wilderness lie close beside the beaten roads of the present travel." Theodore Roosevelt

Jim Cordier

Conservation and Inland Wetlands Agent

