

TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED
Conservation Commission
March 14, 2023 Special Zoom Meeting
Recorded
Unapproved Minutes

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:09 PM

Members Present: Linda Pulford, Mario Santoro, Judy Doyle, Jeanine Reinier, Ginny Apple

Members Absent: Dawn Anstett

2. Approval of minutes

Feb 2, 2023 minutes were approved.

3. Recognition of Public:

4. Old Business

Sustainable Connecticut

2.4 – Provide Resources and Support to Local Businesses – Linda

2.4.1 - Host one or more business roundtables and/or events

Linda met with Todd Winkler from the Barkhamsted Economic Development Commission. They went over the Sustainable CT action steps to bring him on board. He will be our contact and help to obtain documentation regarding any events the EDC holds for local businesses. Linda will follow up with him the week of 2/20

3.1 – Provide Watershed Education – Mario

Mario spoke with Laura Hart who provided him with an inventory of past activities which should apply to Sustainable CT credits. They apply to multiple sub actions. We only need one sub action entered for phase I. Because Barkhamsted has appointed members on these various groups, we can get credit for activities in town.

3.1.1 - Resident & Business Owner Education

FRWA and FRCC participated in the Barkhamsted Earth Day Nature Festival on 4/24/22.
FRWA watershed educational tabling event in Peoples State Forest for FVTU 9/10/22.
FRCC placed new Wild & Scenic kiosks with educational info at Matthies Grove, Whittemore, and Church Pool.

3.1.2 Community Based Research

FRWA does Water Quality Sampling at 3 locations in Barkhamsted that can also be counted, they just have to be submitted with a photo.
Macroinvertable survey on Morgan Brook 11/28/22

3.2 - Create a Watershed Management Plan

The Town of Barkhamsted was an active participant and the Farmington River Coordinating Committee Management Plan (and Study Report) are active documents that guide the current committee in all its decisions. This could apply to one of the following sub actions.

3.2.1 - Inventory

3.2.2 - Regulation Review and Alignment with Watershed Protection Goals

3.2.3 - Action Plan

3.3 - Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration

3.3.1 - Complete a priority project as ideally outlined in your Watershed Action Plan

Earth Day River Cleanup with FRAA, FRWA, FRCC on 4/23/22 included locations in Barkhamsted

3.5 - Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory - Ginny

3.5.1 - Develop a natural resource and wildlife (NRW) inventory.

Ginny has all the notes and corrections and will pass them on to Judy and Linda so we can complete the document.

3.5.2 - Integrate your NRW inventory into municipal planning; Making maps available to the public by posting them online.

3.10 - Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management

3.10.3 - Educate Residents on Invasive Species

FRCC hosted a workshop with FALPS and Betsy Corrigan at Matthies Grove in Peoples State Forest to education the public volunteers and remove invasive plants - 12/2/22

3.12 - Enhance Pollinator Pathways

3.12.2 - Create pollinator gardens and educate residents about pollinators.

FRWA created a native garden at the Nature Museum in Peoples State Forest in 2020-2021 with National Park Foundation funding through Wild & Scenic Rivers

FALPS created a pollinator garden in Matthies Grove with funding from FRCC

3.14 - Implement Sustainable Snow Management

3.14.1 - Educate municipal staff, residents, and businesses about promoting and managing sustainable winter operations

4.1 - Map Tourism and Cultural Assets – Ginny

4.1.1 - Create a Tourism and Cultural Asset Map

Ginny reported that we do have a completed tourism map. The EDC has a contact who created the map for the town.

6.5 - Promote Public Transit and Other Mobility Strategies – Jeanine

6.5.3 -Through a process of community engagement, conduct a bicycle and/or pedestrian audit

6.5.4 - Create and formally adopt a bicycle and/or pedestrian plan

Jeanine is working on this sub task and specifically the need for signage. She attended a meeting of the CT Bicycling Group to understand their concerns. She will follow up with Don on signage process and research whether an audit has been performed.

8.1 - Hold a Sustainability Event – Ginny

8.1.1 - Support and hold a sustainability event, track data and evaluate.

Earth Day Nature Festival April 30th

8.7 - Engage with Youth on Community Sustainability – Judy

8.7.1 - Support youth-led sustainability projects in your community.

Youth leaders and projects do not need to be affiliated with a school.

Judy will draft a flyer and rules for a contest: Make something out of recycled, reclaimed objects. The goal is to have entries at our Earth Day Nature Festival and judge it there. Certificates if we can't think of prizes.

11.3 - Implement Policy for Sustainable, Diverse Housing Options – Judy

11.3.1 - Establish a state-approved incentive housing zone (IHZ) in eligible locations.

Judy is working this effort with the Barkhamsted Housing Trust. Zoning has been completed for incentive housing.

11.3.2 - Educate residents on accessory dwelling unit (ADU) regulations and opportunities.

Seminars and meetings were held.

BCC section of town website

Judy has completed a site. Ginny has photos for her. There was discussion on funding and how to integrate the site into our existing one. Judy will discuss with Don.

Earth Day Nature Festival 4/30

Ginny will send us a list of vendors or participants who have been contacted and those who have already committed so we can add other vendors we may know of i.e. have Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts been contacted? Also, any itinerary she can share with us. a For BCC, we will

have the recycled art contest. Also, Linda has received ~200 free wildflower seed packets to distribute.

Ginny may seek out a sign language interpreter for the event.

5. New Business

6. Motion to adjourn: adjourned at 8:37 PM

Respectfully submitted, Linda Pulford