



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes - December 4, 2024 - Meeting - Goshen Town Hall Conference Room and Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman, Iain Kinsella, called the December 4, 2024, meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Present at Goshen Town Hall Conference Room: Iain Kinsella-Chair and Paul Gallo-Vice Chair

Present on ZOOM: Cindy Barrett, Annette Lott, Jason Masi, and Laura Saucier

Excused: Sue Rinaldi

Guest: Janell Mullen - Goshen Town Planner

APPROVAL of MINUTES: The minutes of the November 6, 2024, meeting were emailed for review. Annette Lott made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Laura Saucier. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- No correspondence received in the mail.
- Iain reported that he was sworn in by Town Clerk, Barbara Breor, and his term is until December 2028.
- Iain also reported that he met with Janell Mullen, Town Planner.

OLD BUSINESS:

Torrington Water Company fishing by permit at reservoir: Iain reported the following:

- For future agendas this will be listed as "Torrington Water Company"
- Iain reported that he has no updates on the potential purchase by Regional Water Authority (RWA) of Aquarian Company.
- No other report and no report on bridge repair.

Trail maintenance reports:

- Town Hill Trail - Iain received a report from Joe Welsh, resident, that the trail is passable with some basic chainsaw work to be done to clear debris. He will do this work.
- East Street North Trail - Cindy reported that she did check the flat north trail and there were some branches that had come down. It appears that a beaver has been working on a "dam" on the pond and small trees nearby had evidence of beaver activity. She also checked part of the trail bordering the pond. The trail sign on the dead tree stump at the entrance to the parking area was found on the ground and hammered it back into the dead tree. Paul inquired if the parking sign was there. He believes he removed it to stain it. He will replace it.

Bantam Lake watershed project status: No report at this meeting.

Goshen Town Topics: Articles need to be worked on. Paul reminded members that we considered doing a wood duck box nesting article with pictures of eggs for the spring article which would be due around February 20, 2025. Laura has been working on an article about riparian buffers which she will complete.

Iain asked for members to be working on future articles and he will work on an article about projects with the Agriscience students from Lakeview High School. Iain noted that there is a lease that allows maple sugar sap to be collected on the Aquarian land by a company and he is going to have Joe Welsh help connect with the agriscience Lakeview high school students to benchmark their maple syrup production set up.



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Goshen Open Space Plan 2025:

- Iain explained that we are in the process of updating the **Open Space Plan (OSP)** and introduced Janell Mullen, Consultant, working for the town as Town Planner working on the **Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)** which is also due for an update. Janell is meeting with the Commissions that have a part in it and she came to talk with us this evening.
- Janell gave thanks to the Commission and explained that she and Iain met last week and the goal is to include all of the Commissions including the Conservation Commission in the update to the plan and how she could help with the efforts on the **Open Space Plan** update especially since the **Open Space Plan** is front and center in the current **POCD**.
- Janell explained that she wants to really make sure we are highlighting the same priorities, that she's echoing what it is we are actually working on, and that we are just representing the work of all of the town Boards and volunteers that work so hard. She wants to make sure that she is hearing everyone, that she's not rereading action steps that might be irrelevant and outdated, and certainly making sure that we are expanding on any sort of resources and collaborating where we can.
- Janelle explained: "The **POCD** will entail some updates to maps, certainly updates to the overall format that currently exists of the **POCD** and so it is a really great chance just for us to really touch base provided that you are going through **OSP** update as well. I would really like to work out our timing so we can at least exemplify a new **Open Space Plan** or just represent it well to make sure that we are really aware of the priorities." "The Planning and Zoning is the lead agency on the "Town Plan" but that certainly doesn't diminish the work that you do in town. I just want to make sure that it is well represented because clearly you put allot of work and time into what it is that you do."
- Iain explained that he came on the Conservation Commission in 2015 when the **OSP** was last updated and is familiar with it. Goals to updating the **OSP** include:
 - Aesthetics: Make some changes but also keep some tradition such as local pictures taken by local residents.
 - Metrics: Will be updated and Iain had checked into sources of previous metrics and it will be a process and he has begun work on it. He noted that the easiest way is to go into the Grand List and sort through what the Assessor has and the Goshen Land Trust.
 - Content: Discussion on possible changes and additions will be had. He noted that Laura has an addition that she would like to talk about.
- Iain explained that the timeframe is to plan on presenting the **OSP** sometime in the summer of 2025 before the Planning and Zoning Commission and explain any changes, etc.
- Members will help work on portions of the **OSP** - Points of Interest, metric updates, and pictures, etc.
- Janelle noted: "Certainly where there can be some crossover from the efforts of the **P&Z** and the Town on the plan update and anything you might be endeavoring when it comes to specific maps being reutilized in the plan. I see that as a good opportunity if you need those points of interest maps. Why not harmonize where we can." Iain stated that once we get the metrics ironed out the Protected Properties have to get updated as well.
- Janelle suggested the possibility of sharing items that are top of mind when it comes to our task items to make sure that they are still in line with what it is that we might be feeding into the 2025 **Open Space Plan**, action items 1-7. She noted that if any of those change, that will really be her starting point for what she would discuss with Planning and Zoning Commission and the **POCD** with respect to the Conservation Commission. Cindy could be a crossover contact to share items as she is a member of **P&Z**.



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- Iain explained that last version of **OSP** was presented in August 2015 and the **POCD** was effective August 2016.
- Janell reviewed ... "I have been working with the Commissions as the Town Planner, one on one, individualizing the feedback and getting a sense of what the needs are so that I can collaborate and work appropriately representing the Commission's goals and policy initiatives. For some of the tougher topics, like housing, the concept is to hire a Moderator to do a town wide community input gathering session and then to report back as a third party to myself and to the **P&Z**...so a little bit of separation distance and just making sure we do have a third party involved with some of the tougher topics. The **P&Z** is looking at some proposals from outside consultants to come in and do the community assessment issues forum like the one that took place back when the 2015 plan was being worked on and then I will take the "take away" from those workshops and work that into the plan. Really tailoring it specific to Goshen, to Goshen's needs, and hopefully, it will a comprehensive overview of all of the initiatives and all of the goals of the individualized groups and to certainly lend itself to be a bit more of a living document that we are referencing and implementing and that you can also use as a resource to the Conservation Commission in addition to the **OSP**. I am hoping to certainly grow the Plan of Conservation and Development so that it isn't something that we just look back on 10 years later and realize that we should update."
- Iain explained that the Commission will start the process of developing a plan for upcoming meetings so that members will be working on certain task items to complete. Thanks were given to Janell and Iain will share her contact information to reach out. Janell will look at **OSP** and the action items at the end and Iain asked members to review action items 1-7. He praised the existing document and noted that work will be done to make it more relevant, make adjustments, update the metrics, etc.

2025 Meeting schedule: Discussion was had regarding the Jan. 1, 2025 meeting date and whether or not it was included on the 2024 dates submitted to Town Clerk.

Dates for 2025 Conservation meetings to be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM at Town Hall Conference Room and Zoom were presented as follows:

January 1 (No meeting - Holiday), February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July (NO MEETING), August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3, and January 7, 2026. If a January 2025 meeting is on record with Town Clerk, it will be cancelled appropriately. Paul Gallo made a motion to accept the dates presented for the 2025 meetings which will be submitted to Town Clerk and to cancel the 2025 January meeting and no meeting in July 2025 and it was seconded by Jason Masi. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Iain plans on contacting Mr. Gino Masi and the Wamogo Agriscience students at Lakeview High School to plan on projects to be done in 2025 such as the bat box and others.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Gallo, seconded by Laura Saucier, at 7:14 pm. The motion carried.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING: Retitle "Torrington Water Company fishing by permit at reservoir" to "Torrington Water Company" and remove meeting schedule for 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Barrett
Cynthia A. Barrett

Received Dec 9, 2024 @ 2:03 P.M.

Attest Burton K. Buer
Goshen Town Clerk

