



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes - October 2, 2024 - Meeting - Goshen Town Hall Conference Room and Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman, Iain Kinsella, called the October 2, 2024, meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Present at Goshen Town Hall Conference Room: Iain Kinsella-Chair, Paul Gallo-Vice Chair and Laura Saucier.
Present on ZOOM: Cindy Barrett, Jason Masi and Sue Rinaldi. Excused: Annette Lott

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the September 4, 2024, meeting were mailed for review. Laura Saucier made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Paul Gallo. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None received.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

- Iain reported that he has been in contact with Aquarian Water Company regarding the bridge issues.
- Regional Water Authority (RWA) is still interested in purchasing Aquarian.
- Iain reviewed that one of our duties as the Conservation Commission is to look after our town's natural resources. Iain did email the Real Estate Manager, John Triana, at RWA, and introduced himself as Chair of the Conservation Commission.
- Iain will continue to follow developments with RWA.

Trail maintenance reports:

Iain reported that work had been done during September on the area around the pond at the East Street North Trail. Cindy had shared pictures in September of the area. He was in contact with Garret Harlow, Town Engineer, and they had extra topsoil from work in the area and used it to level out the area around the pond and picnic area. Paul noticed cleaning out of some of the area as well. Sue will pay a visit to check it out.

Iain reported that he has commitment from the Vocational Agriculture teacher, Gino Masi, at Lakeview. He reached out to Iain that he has agriculture students interested in doing public service in activities related to agriscience. Five students will volunteer on Thursday, October 17, 2024, on the East Street North Trail.

Iain will be with them, walk the trail, talk with them regarding careers, and do trail upkeep. Tasks will include



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checking signage, new QR code sheets will be posted, and new QR code was sent to Town Clerk to update on town website. Trails will be checked for the condition of blazes, trail marker signs, and trees will be cleaned. They will work within their time frame. Iain is looking forward to including them in future conservation tasks such as the bat boxes and assisting them. Bat box is ready to be installed.

Bantam Lake watershed project status: No report at this meeting. Laura reported that she has not received anything as well.

Goshen Town Topics future articles: Paul's article is ready to be submitted for the November 25 deadline. Paul has pictures to include as well. Iain asked members to be working on an article for future submissions. An article on the agriculture students was a suggestion shared.

Goshen Town Hall Walkway beds/Pollinator Garden Maintenance: Fall clean up of beds will be arranged for a final cleaning. November date will be shared via email.

Goshen Open Space Plan 2025: The following was discussed:

- Iain and Laura had attended the Goshen Land Trust meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2024, and shared that Hank Gruner and Dennis Quinn did an excellent presentation. They are both herpetologists and consultants. They talked about land conservation, the importance of land conservation starting in your own town, and species identification such as spring salamanders in our area and why they are in the areas they are in which are called critical habitats. Further discussion was had and identifying natural communities in our town is of importance. The presentation was tailored to our area. Areas in town are unmapped for certain amphibians and perhaps this could be a project with the agricultural students. They are co-authors of a book "Conservation of Amphibians and Reptiles in Connecticut". It was an inspiring presentation and reinforces the goal to continue to do good conservation work in Goshen.
- Pictures for the Goshen Open Space Plan are being worked on with Anders Nygren. Format changes may not be needed. Data and numbers will be updated and content will be reviewed for any deletions or additions. Prioritization list will be reviewed. The plan is to go page by page and review. Members will begin to review in preparation to discuss at our meetings and further research will be done as needed.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Gallo, seconded by Laura Saucier at 7:15 pm. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Barrett
Cynthia A. Barrett

Received Oct. 8, 2024 10:05 AM

Attest *John Cill*
asst. Goshen Town Clerk