



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes - May 7, 2025 - Meeting - Goshen Town Hall Conference Room and Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman, Iain Kinsella, called the May 7, 2025, meeting to order at 6:35 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 and Annette Lott

Excused: Jason Masi and Sue Rinaldi

Guests on Zoom: Scott Olson - Selectman

APPROVAL of MINUTES: The minutes of the April 2, 2025, meeting were emailed for review Laura Saucier made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Paul Gallo. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Iain reported nothing in the box.

OLD BUSINESS:

Torrington Water Company:

- No report at this meeting but the bridge repair is still being worked on and will continue to report on status.

Trail maintenance reports:

- Iain reported that Joe Welsh had no report for Town Hill Trail. Members reported no visits to the trails this past month.

Bantam Lake watershed project status:

- No report at this meeting.

Goshen Town Topics:

- Jason is working on an energy incentives article. The deadline for the article for the next publication is May 19, 2025. Thanks were given to Laura for last article.
- Laura reminded members that the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station publication done by Tracy Zarrillo on native bee species could be shared as permission has been obtained.
- Iain reminded members to work on articles for future publications.

Goshen Open Space Plan 2026:

- Iain reported that he did receive photos of Goshen from Kit Wright, Goshen Good Neighbors, to use in the plan and he and Paul reviewed the pictures for this meeting. 18 photos were screen shared with members and Iain will share a document to vote on the photos to use. GCC reviewed pictures from GGN calendar submissions for possible incorporation into the updated OSP and that permission from the photographers will be needed.
- Iain asked members to review the metrics for the plan that he had shared from Lucy Hussman via spreadsheets. Discussion will be had at the June 4 meeting.



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Camping Policy:

- Camping on trails "by permit only" further discussion will be held at the June meeting.

Goshen Town Hall Planting Beds:

- Front bed spring clean up was done by Iain and Laura on Sunday, April 27. Weeding was also done on Arbor Day, 4/25/2025, by the Lakeview Agriscience high-school students who had come to assist with the tree plantings and Goshen Center School 5th graders. Continued weed control will have to be done and Iain suggested stopping by to weed if possible. Trimming of the hedges by Sue will be done. Cindy will tend to the Pollinator Garden.

Conservation/Affordable Housing:

- Iain reviewed that he had received an email from Dawn Wilkes on April 1 from the Goshen Housing Trust regarding Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity (LCCHO) and the possibility of sharing with the Conservation Commission a table at the Goshen Farmer's Market to promote Conservation and Affordable Housing. The email was shared by Iain with members for review.
- Mr. Olsen thanked the Commission for being given the opportunity to speak having not been on the agenda. He expressed concern that the Goshen Housing Trust was a private entity and that it was not appropriate for a private entity to partner with a Town Commission. Furthermore he felt it would not be in the best interest of the people of the Town for the GCC and GHT to appear they are in a partnership by manning a table together at the Goshen Farmers Market.
- Mr. Olsen made the point that on the topic of high-density housing in Goshen, it would likely directly contradict the mission of the GCC. This point was countered by Annette Lott to be not necessarily correct as a blanket statement. Chair Kinsella recognized the validity of the argument but reiterated that it was important to get them out there, but that the discussion was a hypothetical one until an actual project is brought for GCC opinion.

NEW BUSINESS: None

- Agenda: Remove Conservation and Affordable Housing and Goshen Town Hall Planting Beds for the agenda for next month.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Gallo, seconded by Laura Saucier, at 7:18 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia A. Barrett".

Cynthia A. Barrett

Received May 15, 2025 @ 10:33 AM

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to the Goshen Town Clerk.

Attest
Goshen Town Clerk