



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes - April 2, 2025 - Meeting - Goshen Town Hall Conference Room and Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman, Iain Kinsella, called the April 2, 2025, 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

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the March 5, 2025, meeting were emailed for review. Paul Gallo made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Annette Lott. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Iain reported that a letter was received from Aquarion Water Company regarding the 15th Annual Aquarion Environmental Champion Awards program which honors businesses, non-profit organizations, adults and students for their outstanding volunteer efforts in conserving and improving our natural environment. Grants of \$5,000 are available for adults in business or non-profit organizations category and the student category from grades 9-12 the grant amount is \$1,000. Iain will forward the letter via email, deadline for submission is May 9, 2025, and the website for additional information is <https://www.aquarionwater.com/environment/environmental-champion-awards/nominations>. Awards will be done on June 7, 2025.
- Iain received an email from Dawn Wilkes regarding the Goshen Housing Trust and it will be covered under New Business.

OLD BUSINESS:

Torrington Water Company:

- Iain reported that the bridge repair is still being worked on and will continue to report on status.

Trail maintenance reports:

- Iain reported that boards on the bridge on the Town Hill Trail need to be replaced according to Joe Welsh who checks the trail. Sizes will be determined and will be taken care of.
- Joe Welsh notified Iain that on April 22, 2025, the Torrington Water Company/Aquarion will assist Camp Coch with the clean up of the Story Walk Trail at Camp Coch as an Earth Day project. John Zeiner is heading it and Iain will distribute information.

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

Goshen Town Topics: Iain suggested that a previous article could be used if necessary. Thanks were given to Laura for the last article. Options were discussed for an invasive species article. Laura shared that the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station publication done by Tracy Zarrillo on native bee species is very educational and very interesting. It



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes - April 2, 2025 - Meeting - Goshen Town Hall Conference Room and Zoom

Page 2

was suggested to share with permission, if possible, portions of this publication. Laura will contact Tracy and will share the publication. Jason will work on an energy incentives article. The deadline for the article for the next publication is May 19, 2025. Annette noted that she works for the Northwest Conservation District and educational articles could be shared if needed.

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 will review the pictures after the meeting. Permission will be obtained from the residents who submitted photos and Iain will create a slide show for members to pick out photos for the OSP.
- Lucy Hussman, Goshen Assessor, was contacted and she shared with Iain town metrics with acreages and he will circulate the information for review of the numbers for updating. He noted that Lucy did do updating.
- Iain asked members to review the plan and make notes on content changes.

Camping Policy:

- Camping on trails "by permit only" discussion was had. Jason reviewed that we have the policy, it does state that it is allowed on properties designated by the town, and it states that these sites are listed on the Goshen Town website.
- After discussion, a clear listing of the sites is needed and will be done to bring it up to date on the website on the camping information page. Jason will work on wording, will send a draft, and list them appropriately on the website.

Town Hall Planting Beds:

- A date will be arranged for front bed spring clean up. Annette volunteered to power wash the concrete walkway as well. Water source and electrical outlets will be checked out. Cindy will tend to the Pollinator Garden. Iain will send email to arrange a work date.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Iain received an email from Dawn Wilkes from the Goshen Housing Trust regarding Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity (LCCHO) and was inquiring about the possibility of sharing with the Conservation Commission a table at the Goshen Farmer's Market to promote Conservation and Affordable Housing. No fee would be involved. Discussion was had about this possibility. The email will be shared by Iain. It will be discussed next month.
- **Agenda:** Add Conservation and Affordable Housing to the agenda for next month.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Gallo, seconded by Cindy Barrett, at 7:11 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Barrett
Cynthia A. Barrett

Received April 8, 2025 @ 11:16 A.M.

Attest *Brian Z. Bury*
Goshen Town Clerk