



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes - March 5, 2025 - Meeting - Goshen Town Hall Conference Room and Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: Vice chairman, Paul Gallo,, called the March 5, 2025, meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Present at Goshen Town Hall Conference Room: Paul Gallo-Vice Chair and Laura Saucier

Present on ZOOM: Cindy Barrett, Annette Lott, and Sue Rinaldi

Excused: Iain Kinsella and Jason Masi

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the February 5, 2025, meeting were mailed for review. **Laura Saucier made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Annette Lott. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Paul reported that no correspondence was received for the month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Torrington Water Company:

- Paul reported no updates for this meeting.

Trail maintenance reports:

- East Street North Trail - Due to the snow and ice conditions, members reported that they had not been out of the trails.
- Paul reported that the ice on the East Street North Pond is frozen due to the cold and that the wood duck nesting box cleanup can be done. Paul reported that he has the wood chips and any member who is interested can assist to clean out the two boxes and observe any eggs or eggshells. Paul asked that members let him know if they would like to assist and arrangements will be made. He will drill the ice to make sure it is safe.
- Annette asked if the Commission has a game camera at the pond and Paul shared that Iain has the camera that was on the East Street North Trail. Paul noted that there was discussion of placing one on the wood duck boxes but explained that there was not a good spot to secure it. There were two cameras on the property and one had been stolen. Good images of moose, a twin moose pair, deer, and coyotes had been obtained.

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

Goshen Town Topics: The deadline for the article for the next publication is May 19, 2025. Paul suggested he could use a previous article on the invasive Japanese knotweed. Paul suggested to be working on future articles.



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Goshen Open Space Plan 2026:

- Iain reported to Paul that he did contact Kit Wright, Goshen Good Neighbors, for photos of Goshen to use in the plan and she shared many photos. Iain and Paul will review the pictures and do a slide show for members to pick out photos for the OSP.
- Cindy reminded members to continue to read the plan as Iain has suggested.

Camping Policy:

- Camping on trails "by permit only" discussion was had at the last meeting. Annette had asked for clarification on "designated lands". Discussion was had on putting the definition of the sites to the website or changing the policy.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Cindy and Sue reported on the hour long Zoom presentation of 2/26/2025 "Japanese Knotweed Management - Within the upper Farmington Wild and Scenic River" which was presented by Christian Allyn, owner of Invasive Plant Solutions. It was a part of the FRCC - Farmington River Coordinating Committee. The link to view the video had been shared with members. Information was shared regarding spraying in the fall for control as the root systems go down 12-15 feet deep and how aggressive the root system is. Spraying done over 3-4 years can bring it under control and then checking for regrowth is needed. It is spread by soil from an infested area and then used in other planting areas such as in parking lot beds. Sue noted that an area is not considered "clean" until the weed is not present for 10 years. Costs were explained and other methods such as covering with tarps does not provide control. Proper spraying method was explained. Cindy and Sue recommended viewing the presentation. Members shared areas in Goshen where Japanese knotweed is present.
- Paul inquired if any members have seen bluebirds recently. He shared that he had put up 4 boxes on his property last spring and 3 boxes hosted bluebirds. He is now feeding them meal worms and has a allot of them! He asked members about the idea of placing some boxes around town. Laura suggested that we would have to check them and clean them 3 times a year. Paul suggested right at the Town Hall area. Please let Paul know if you are interested in this project.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Cindy Barrett, seconded by Sue Rinaldi, at 6:57 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Barrett
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Received March 10, 2025 @ 9:20 AM

Attest *Barbara Z. Bue*
Goshen Town Clerk