



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman, Iain Kinsella, called the February 5, 2025, meeting to order at 6:38 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 Sue Rinaldi.

Excused: Laura Saucier

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 4, 2024, meeting were mailed 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 he had forwarded the budget to members and it will be covered under New Business.
- Iain reported that correspondence was received from Becky Eaton, member of the Norfolk Conservation Commission, regarding the possibility of collaborating with the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG) to have a presentation on the aggressive spread of invasive species like they have done in the past. Iain shared information with members and it will be covered under New Business.
- Iain also reported he has been in touch with Gino Masi, Wamogo Agriscience high-school student's teacher, and will be covered under New Business.

OLD BUSINESS:

Torrington Water Company:

- Iain reported that on January 27, 2025, Eversource Energy announced the sale of Aquarion Water Company and it was acquired by Regional Water Authority (RWA) under another set up corporation called Aquarion Water Authority. Iain noted that it still needs to go through Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and be approved. Iain will reach out to his contacts as he has done in the past as the sale progresses.
- Bridge repair funds maybe available through Aquarion and more information to come on this.

Trail maintenance reports:

- East Street North Trail - Cindy reported that she did check the parking lot and driveway this past weekend, and it was icy. Iain notified Garret Harlow, Public Works Department, and sanding was done. Sue Rinaldi report downed trees on the south loop and she will do some work when weather permits. Annette Lott asked about how we handle blazes on the trees on the trail. Discussion was had regarding the blazes and how to refresh the blazes. Paul has arrow direction signs to be used on part of the loop trail that needs some highlighting. Paul also has trail marker signs as well with Conservation Commission logo to be used and noted that the blazes are original to when the trail was made. Annette will give blazes some attention.
- Town Hill Trail - Iain received a report from Joe Welsh, resident, that there is a large ash tree hanging near the trail entrance. He will do this work.

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

Goshen Town Topics: The deadline for the next article for the March publication is February 10, 2025. Laura has been working on an article about riparian buffers which she will complete.

Iain reported that due to Paul's article in the last issue about fisher cats, a taxidermy specimen of one is on display at Goshen Town Hall right outside the Conference Room. Thank you to the donor who shared this!

Iain asked for members to be working on future articles.



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Goshen Open Space Plan 2026:

- Iain will contact Goshen Good Neighbors for possible new photos of Goshen to use in the plan. He also reached out to Goshen Accessor and Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) to gather best ways to get updates for acreages and metrics.
- Iain asked members to continue to read the plan, make edits, etc. and be prepared to discuss at future meetings when all members are present in preparation to present the plan to Planning and Zoning Commission in August.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Correspondence from Becky Eaton, member of the Norfolk Conservation Commission, regarding collaborating on a presentation with NHCOC on invasive species to area towns and best practices to control the spread of these. Discussion was had and Iain will contact Becky that we are in favor of this.
- Iain has been in contact with Mr. Gino Masi, teacher for the Wamogo Agriscience high school students at Lakeview High School, regarding their maple sugaring activities. They would like to benchmark their production and processing against other people that do maple sugaring in the area. Aquarion has an agreement with Brother's and Sons Sugarhouse, Torrington, to harvest maple syrup sap with modern day practices and they have a factory in Torrington. Discussion was had regarding their set up. Plans have been made for March to have the students view the tap system on East Street North and go to the factory in Torrington. Members of Commission would be welcome as well.
- Iain reported that he did circulate the budget for members to review and discussion was had. Budget has remained at the same amount.
- **Paul Gallo made a motion to use the same the budget for 2025 as we did for 2024 as we do not foresee any other expenditures and it was seconded by Jason Masi. The motion carried.** Iain will submit the budget to Virginia Perry.
- East Street North Trail kiosk - Discussion was had regarding a sticker measuring approximately 2x3 inches that had been placed on the kiosk which read..."New England for the White Man" text over the image of an evergreen tree in black and white. Discussion was had about the possibility of adding a basic nondiscrimination statement to the trail rules information on the town website and kiosks. Cindy noted that she did not see any new sticker this past weekend and Paul had checked kiosks at the other trails in Goshen. Discussion was had about rules on rail trails for activities allowed, camping rules, and other rules. Members will make an effort to check trail kiosks on a regular basis. At this time, no statement will be added.
- Camping on trails "by permit only" discussion was had as Annette inquired if any permits have been issued. Discussion was had on designation of areas where camping is allowed on the 5 properties. Jason will circulate rules on camping for discussion at next meeting.
- Bat Box - Iain will make arrangements with Mr. Masi and the high school students to help assist.
- Goshen Town Hall beds and Pollinator Garden - Arrangements will be made to do maintenance in the spring including how to trim the boxwood bushes either into hedges or bushes and whether or not to add mulch this year. Dead plants do need to be replaced.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING: Add "Camping Policy"

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Gallo, seconded by Cindy Barrett, at 7:22pm. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Barrett
Cynthia A. Barrett

A handwritten signature of Cynthia Barrett, with a circular stamp next to it.

Received Feb. 10 2025 10:30 AM
Attest: [Signature]
Asst. Goshen Town Clerk