

Conservation Commission of the Town of Litchfield

Land Use Office, 80 Doyle Road, PO Box 12, Bantam, CT 06750

Regular Members

Mark Austin, Secretary
John Cox
Cleve Fuessenich
Barbara Putnam, Chair
Jordan Richards
Diane Stoner, Vice Chair
Marcia Fowler

Alternates

Chester Reed
Vacancy

Draft Minutes REGULAR MEETING August 20, 2025

7 PM, Bantam Town Hall Annex, Bantam, CT

Barbara Putnam called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Austin, Cleve Fuessenich Barbara Putnam, Marcia Fowler, and Spenser Musselman, Jordan Richards(7:07 pm) and Chester Reed

Members Absent: John Cox, Diane Stoner, and Jordan Richards

Others Present: Linda Austin,

Appointment of Alternates: Appointment of Chester Reed as an active member seat

Approval of Minutes – A motion to approve June minutes by Fuessenich, seconded by Fowler, unanimously approved. The Commission did not meet in July.

Old Business:

Open Space Acquisition Project:

Discuss financing options for open space:

- Purchase land
- Accept a donation
- Accept a donation of or purchase development rights
- Purchase land with building, subdivide and sell the building, and keep the excess land as open space
- Use the Open Space Acquisition fund,
- Bond authorization to purchase property
- Conveyance Fees: how is the Town using the existing funds

Discuss open space plan:

Found an old Conservation Commission file from over 10 years ago and an open space policy. No motions found adopting the plan. Will research the old paperwork and become integrated into plan.

The Purpose of the Conservation Commission is to develop and conserve natural resources, to conduct research into the current utilization and future possible utilization of land areas of the town, and to keep an index of all open areas, for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of such areas.

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Review current website

Maps have been posted on the website. The web map is already out of date and needs a revision to include the Putnam and Milde properties. Should publish the Open Space Policy when the adoption date is verified (September 2024).

Natural and Community Resource Inventory Project:

Review Natural Resource plans from other Towns: no update

New Business

Enforcement of Conservation easements

- Discussed how we currently are using aerial maps for detection.

Correspondence:

April Blasavage, the Land Use Administrative Assistant has forwarded the following to Barbara Putnam:

- Roadside invasive workshop – already happened
- Understanding PA490 by Farm Bureau video conference (\$40 non member cost)
- CT Association of Wetlands Scientists: Federal mitigation rule
- CT Farmland Trust: Preserving farmland fundraiser
- CT Land Conservation Council: has interesting articles and grants available (notices of what is available)
- CT Land Conservation Council announced LEAP Grants – three large grants given from fund to three different land trusts
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New members: no updates

Review of action items

- Putnam and Fuessenich will look into Conveyance Tax
- Musselman will follow up on updates on the maps
- Putnam forward PA490 seminar to a contact for local farms
- Begin thinking about our the forum for next year

Adjournment **Adjournment:** at 7:54 p.m.

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Next scheduled meeting:

- Regular Meeting September 17, 2025.

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