

# Conservation Commission of the Town of Litchfield

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

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 21, 2026

7 PM, Bantam Town Hall Annex, Bantam, CT

**Members Present:** Barbara Putnam chair. Diane Stoner vice-chair, Marcia Fowler, Cleve Fuessenich, Jordan Richards, Chester Reed Alternate.

**Members Absent:** Mark Austin, Clerk

**Call to order** Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

**Appointment of Alternates** Chester Reed was appointed to serve as a regular member, and agreed to be the Clerk Pro Tem for this meeting.

**Approval of November 2025 Minutes** – these minutes were never submitted. Barbara will write and submit them.

### Old Business:

#### Open Space Acquisition Project

Discuss open space plan -

Diane asked that we issue an updated draft that is dated. There are too many old drafts without dates.

Barbara Putnam spoke about adding scenic roads to the Open Space Plan. There are survey documents we could use to make a new map.

We agreed that we would not identify particular potential Open Space properties on our maps. , We can use our maps to evaluate open space offered by developers doing subdivisions. We agreed that setting an open space percentage goal was not useful.

Discuss financing options for open space

The Town Attorney's email states that we may not use the funds in the Open Space Acquisition Fund to enable the Land Trust purchase property. He cites two Connecticut General Statutes without quoting the text. Barbara will send his email to the commissioners.

Review website

The website has an outdated version of the open space map. Marcia will get the current copy from Stacy at HVA and send it to Barbara to have the first Selectman's staff put it on the website.

Review Open Space documents from P&Z and Subdivision regs and the POCAD

Barbara put this item on the agenda in anticipation of collaborating with P&Z on the 2027 POCAD. Since Spencer Musselman's departure, the chair of P&Z has her hands full

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finding his replacement, so she has not responded to Barbara's requests to discuss the POCAD>

### **Natural and Community Resource Inventory Project**

Stacy Deming may be able to provide a set of maps for us to use. Marcia will ask her for an estimate for doing this work.

### **Enforcement of conservation easements**

We have a good List of conservation easements. Some of them are very small, and Cleve suggested there might be a way of transferring them back to the landowner for a fee. Commissioner Reed stated that the lifting of easements if it were possible would set a bad precedent. Barbara and Marcia will look up the documents to see about that.

### **New Business**

#### **Coordination with P&Z and Sustainable Litchfield on Open Space Plan**

Barbara has been to a meeting of Sustainable Litchfield. She gave them a copy of our open space policy, and they gave us a copy of a 40 page database of all the Open Space properties in Town.

#### **Correspondence**

Email from Mike Rybak, Town Attorney regarding the use of the Open Space Acquisition Funds.

Email with Carol Bramley of P&Z about replacing our Land Use Administrator

An invitation to the Connecticut Land Conservation Coalition Conference. Barbara will look into becoming a Municipal Affiliate to qualify for a lower fee.

#### **New members:**

John Cox's term has expired, so Chester Reed can apply to be appointed to that position. He will have to contact the First Selectmen's office.

**Meeting Date:** The Commissioners agreed that we would prefer to meet on Tuesdays. We moved to Wednesday to accommodate Spencer's schedule, which is no longer an issue.

**Trails Day** - Barbara reported that the board of the Litchfield Community Greenway said they do not have the bandwidth to participate in Trails Day in June. The Commissioners agreed that we could sponsor a walk on the Greenway for Trails Day.

***A motion in favor of the Commission participating in this event was made by Commissioner Reed, and seconded by Commissioner Richards. The motion passed unanimously***

#### **Review of Action Items**

Barbara will update, date, and circulate the Open Space Plan

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Barbara will forward Mike Rybak's email to the Commissioners

Marcia will talk to Stacy Deming about getting an updated copy of the open space map, and an estimate for a set of natural resources maps.

Barbara will see about becoming a municipal affiliate of the CLCC

Barbara and Marcia will look up some of our conservation easements to see if they can be transferred.

Chet will contact the first selectmen's office about becoming a regular member.

### **Adjournment at 8:41**

#### Regular Members:

Barbara Putnam, Chair  
Diane Stoner, Vice Chair  
Mark Austin, secretary  
Marcia Fowler  
Cleve Fuessenich  
Jordan Richards  
Vacancy

#### Alternates:

Chester Reed  
Vacancy

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