

Conservation Commission of the Town of Litchfield

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

Regular Members

Mark Austin, Chair
John Baker
John Cox
Cleve Fuessenich
Jordan Richards, Vice Chair
Diane Stoner
Karen Terhaar

Alternates

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## Draft Minutes REGULAR MEETING

March 23, 2020

7 PM, Bantam Town Hall Annex, Bantam, CT

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### Special Electronic Meeting Pursuant to Paragraph 1 of Executive Order 7B<sup>1</sup> THIS MEETING WILL BE A 100% ELECTRONIC MEETING

Call to order, roll call, changes to agenda

7:02

Members in attendance: Austin, Baker, Cox (7:04 p), Richards, Stoner, Terhaar

Members absent: Fuessenich,

Public in attendance:

1. Appointment of Alternates: n/a
2. Approval of Minutes – Baker moved, Stoner seconded, unanimous
3. Public Comment: none
4. Declaratory Ruling – SR Litchfield LLC
  - Applicant will not be present because they do not need because they are skipping local and going directly to the State for approval. Cox brought up some background for this type of application and the CT Siting Council.
  - Concerns to be forwarded to the Siting Council.
    - i. Extensive drainage is being proposed. The Commission is concerned about water protection and wetlands protection.
    - ii. No contours were proposed on the maps provided to the Commission. Is the site going to be stable?
    - iii. This is a scenic site. Will there be a protection of the views for this gateway or the adjacent properties?
    - iv. With the loss of around 2000 trees, will the groundwater be protected or is there a detention area to protect the river.
    - v. Will the fence being proposed be enough to protect the site?
    - vi. How will the site be cared for during operation?
    - vii. The Commission is very concerned about the amount of disturbance rather than the siting of the solar field. A great deal of soil is to be moved to install the site.
    - viii. The Commission is concerned about the disposition or remediation of the site at the end of the useful life.
    - ix. The Commission is concerned about the damage to the surrounding lands during installation.
  - Motion by Cox and seconded by Stoner, that the Commission send a letter stating our concerns. Unanimous.
5. Open Space Acquisition Project
  - No new information.

*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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6. Natural and Community Resource Inventory Project

- Town Green Design Committee: has not met due to the pandemic.
- No additional information.

7. Old Business: none

8. New Members – need alternates.

9. New Business:

- P&Z is facing an attempt by the State Legislature to take away rights and be decided at the state level. The Legislature is trying a one size fits all. Other towns are watching about 7 bills. Cox recommends contacting our state representative without individual opinions. Richards feels this is a radical change from the standard of local rule. The bills are in committee.

10. Correspondence: none

11. Review of Action Items

- Continuation of sections for projects.

12. Adjournment

7:43 p

Next regularly scheduled meeting: April 27, 2021