

# 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  
Barbara Putnam, Clerk  
Jordan Richards, Vice Chair  
Diane Stoner

## Alternates

Marcia Fowler  
Vacancy

## Draft Minutes REGULAR MEETING

November 28, 2023

7 PM, Bantam Town Hall Annex, Bantam, CT

Mark Austin called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mark Austin, John Baker, Jordan Richards, Barbara Putnam, and Diane Stoner

**Members Absent:** John Cox, Cleve Fuessenich

**Alternates Present:** Marcia Fowler

**Approval of Minutes** – Revisions: The Document referred to under Open Space Acquisition Project is titled “Open Space Acquisition Planning.” Under item 5, Natural and Community Resource Inventory Project, add the word “Easements” to the “List of Town Owned Conservation...”

John Baker made and Barbara Putnam seconded a motion to accept the October 26, 2023 minutes as revised. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Public Comment:** none

## Correspondence:

**Litchfield Land Trust:** Mark will forward to the members of the Commission an email from the Litchfield Land Trust with six attachments addressing their interest in having funds from the Land Transfer tax directed to the Open Space Acquisition Fund.

## Open Space Acquisition Project:

A report from Spencer Musselman on what he has learned about the mechanism for the use of the funds will be scheduled for the January meeting.

Mark will invite members of the Litchfield Land Trust and the Planning and Zoning Commission to our January meeting to discuss ways in which the Town can fund the acquisition of open space.

*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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Barbara will find out what's involved in adding a webpage to the Conservation Commission page of the Town website, and whether the Conservation Commission can get a Town of Litchfield email address to go with it.

Mark will circulate the "Open Space Acquisition Planning" document to Commissioners for review and comment in anticipation of its being used as our first webpage on the Town website under the Conservation Commission.

**Natural and Community Resources Inventory:** No action

**Old Business:** None

### **New business:**

In anticipation of the next Town budget cycle, Mark will talk to Spencer Musselman about asking the Town to include \$10,000 in its annual budget to go into the Open Space Acquisition Fund

**New members:** No one had any candidates for the remaining alternate position

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

Mark will forward the Land Trust's email to the Commissioners.

Mark will circulate the Open Space Acquisition Planning document to the Commissioners.

Mark will invite the Land Trust and members of the Planning and Zoning Commission to our January meeting to discuss the funding of open space.

Mark will talk to Spencer about putting in a budget request for funding open space acquisition.

Barbara will research how to add a webpage to the Conservation Commission page of the Town website.

Spencer will continue to seek out Denise Raap's report on Mike Ryback's opinion on the use of the Open Space Acquisition Fund.

Spencer will research the Town's conservation easements and report back to the Commission.

**Adjournment:** at 8:05 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled meeting: January 23, 2024

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