

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 March 26, 2024

7 PM, Bantam Town Hall Annex, Bantam, CT

Members Present: Mark Austin, John Baker, Cleve Fuessenich, Barbara Putnam, and Diane Stoner

Members Absent: John Cox, Jordan Richards

Alternates Present: Marcia Fowler

Others present: Spencer Musselman

Mark Austin called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. He seated Marcia Fowler to serve in place of an absent member.

Approval of Minutes – Revisions: The meeting was called to order only once, at 7:05. John Baker made and Diane Stone seconded a motion to accept the minutes as revised. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comment: none

Open Space Acquisition Project:

Diane Stoner circulated a half page Open Space document to be added to our web page. Spencer now has administrative privileges on the website and can post a link to it on our webpage on the Town website. All agreed that the first sentence of that document should replace the text in the About section of the webpage.

Natural and Community Resources Inventory: No action

Correspondence:

Michael Pelaquin has submitted an application to P&Z for a zone change from single family residential to a multifamily project called “Moose Creek” on a 39 acre parcel immediately north of Westleigh. Spencer will forward their documents to the commission as they are submitted

Marcia and Barbara created a draft memo describing a policy on how to spend the funds in the open space acquisition fund, as requested by Mike Ryback, Town

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Attorney. Mark will circulate it to the commission members for discussion at our April meeting. It would then go to P&Z and Sustainable Litchfield for their review. A possible workshop meeting with those two groups was discussed.

In discussion of what we want for the town, we noted that the Land Trust, the Town and the P&Z all have open space maps that vary from each other. Bringing coherence to what we know about our land would be a helpful step toward focusing on what we want. Keeping maps up to date is essential. Our town maps are at least a year out of date.

Old Business: Spencer Musselman reported that he has the easement document from 31 Maple View Trail and that he will inspect it when he goes to inspect a neighboring property.

New business: Mark reminded the Commission that our Election of Officers is next month and that he would welcome new leadership on the commission.

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

Review of Action Items:

Mark, who will circulate the draft the Policy document for the Open Space funds to the commission.

Spencer will post Diane's Open Space document on the website

Spencer will inspect 31 Maple View Trail.

Adjournment: at 8:10 p.m.

Next regularly scheduled meeting: April 23, 2024

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