



**TOWN OF WINCHESTER
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Town Hall, 338 Main Street, 2nd Floor – Lee Ann LaClaire Room

August 11, 2022 – 5:00PM

Meeting Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Amanda Hill called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

2. ROLL CALL:

The following individuals were present: Leann Marvin, Renata Waldron, and John Wiarda. Additionally, staff member Mike Stankov was present.

Jen Perga and Willard Platt were absent.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Ms. Hill, Ms. Waldron second, to approve the June 9, 2022 Minutes; motion passed with Ms. Hill, Ms. Waldron, and Mr. Wiarda voting in favor while Ms. Marvin abstained.

MOTION: Ms. Hill, Ms. Waldron second, to approve the July 14, 2022 Minutes as amended; Ms. Hill, Ms. Waldron, and Mr. Wiarda voting in favor while Ms. Marvin abstained.

4. SUSTAINABLE CT:

The commission discussed generally how to more actively engage on the initiative to gain certification status with Sustainable CT, a voluntary certification program to recognize resilient Connecticut municipalities. Ms. Hill noted that this has been something carried on the agenda for most meetings. Mr. Stankov updated the commission on the work undertaken with this program by town hall staff and a summer intern. He noted that Social Services Director Katie Vail had been doing a lot of uploading on Sustainable CT.

Ms. Waldron suggested that goals should be established on how Winchester is going to work through this process. She questioned whether the work is going to be generally done by Town Hall. Mr. Stankov indicated that it can be either. Ms. Wiarda noted that she had reviewed Sustainable CT and some of the online trainings that are offered. Mr. Stankov noted that points can be gained from those whether it is the town staff, elected officials, or residents. He explained they only need to be documented.

Ms. Waldron questioned whether individual commissioners should email Town Manager Josh Kelly on action items that could be counted towards the certification. It was noted that they should. Mr. Stankov confirmed that he would still connect Ms. Hill with Department of Public Works Director Jim Rollins with on forest management. Ms. Waldron noted that there was a list of businesses in town on the town's website. Mr. Stankov noted that he would check with Economic Development Director Ted Shafer on getting that updated.

Ms. Waldron indicated the Town's grant program for businesses should likely count for this. Mr. Stankov noted that he would check with Mr. Kelly on this.

Ms. Hill questioned whether this board might be able to invite a speaker from White Memorial in Litchfield for the benefit of the community. Mr. Stankov reported that Mr. Shaffer had approached him about an introduction to a professor emeritus from the University of Connecticut for something similar.

Ms. Waldron questioned whether it was okay if this commission had their own Facebook page that could promote their events. Mr. Stankov indicated that he was unaware whether the Town had a policy on this type of thing and noted that he would check on this.

Mr. Wiarda noted that it is a drawback that the Town has no facilities available for lodging, such as a hotel or motel.

The agenda was modified to take up *Discussion on Grant Application on River Cleanup* following the discussion on *Sustainable CT*.

5. DISCUSSION ON GRANT APPLICATION ON RIVER CLEANUP:

Ms. Marvin updated the commission that she was still making an effort on the grant application for the river cleanup. She noted that the first cleanup date was September 24, 2022. Mr. Stankov suggested that even without a grant, the cleanup could still occur, noting that items might be donated for the project. Ms. Marvin noted that a dumpster would be needed. Ms. Hill noted that she had a pickup truck and a dump pass. Mr. Wiarda suggested contacting the boy scouts to be in engaged with the river cleanup event.

Mr. Stankov confirmed that a binder containing the print form of the Sustainable CT information would be printed for Ms. Marvin.

6. EV CHARGING:

Mr. Stankov reported having communicated with Mr. Rollins on XLFleet wherein they both agreed that the cost evaluation does not appear favorable for the Town. He reported Mr. Rollins having provided something regarding Volkswagen that may provide a greater financial benefit to the Town. He noted that he had only received the information from Mr. Rollins the day prior and requested additional time to review. With regards to the charging stations at Hinsdale, Mr. Stankov reported Superintendent of Schools Melany Shanley-Brady had opted to go with Charge Point. Noting that Winchester has many low-income households, Ms. Marvin questioned how many electric cars are in town. Mr. Stankov acknowledged that there is not many but that without charging stations, people would be even more reluctant to purchase an electric vehicle. As discussion ensued, Mr. Stankov indicated that he would find out precisely how many charging stations there were in town. Mr. Wiarda reported that Mr. Kelly had confirmed that there could be four stations installed along the river side of Main Street, four stations in front of Town Hall, and four behind Town Hall. Those spots were discussed with Mr. Wiarda opining the Skate Park and parking lot for Rowley Grill as ideal locations. He also thought that some ought to be installed at the Beardsley Library and behind Whiting Mills.

Mr. Stankov noted the extension on the Sue Grossman trail was good to get started and that it would connect to Main Street. Ms. Waldron noted that it was not going to go all the way and would only go to DMV. Mr. Stankov indicated that he would check into it and find out. He noted that the Mad River Recreation Area was still in the planning phase and would likely include walking trails. He described this as being located on Meadow Street, at the very end behind the white garage. Ms. Waldron questioned whether it would be paved. Mr. Stankov indicated that it would not be. Mr. Wiarda noted the white building that he was referring to was an old oil company. Mr. Stankov was unsure whether the Town owns that building. Mr. Wiarda questioned whether that site needed to be capped. Mr. Stankov indicated he was unsure but would inquire.

7. ADJOURN:

MOTION: Ms. Waldron, Mr. Wiarda second, to adjourn at 5:49PM; unanimously approved.

**Respectfully submitted,
Pamela A. Colombie
Recording Clerk**