

**CLINTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Town of Clinton  
William Stanton Andrews Memorial Town Hall  
54 East Main Street  
Clinton, Connecticut 06413

**MINUTES**

Regular Meeting  
July 13, 2022

Chairman Nick Webb called the virtual July 13, 2022 Regular Monthly Meeting of the Clinton Conservation Commission of the Town of Clinton to order at 6:32 P.M.

Members present: Chairman Nick Webb, Secretary Mary Jo Phelps, Bertram Schmitz, Lawrence Ouellette and Catherine Zamecnik  
Member absent: Mark Giaconia and Student Member Tobias Adler  
Also Present: Clerk Sherry Lee Hynes and Deneen Hedge

**Minutes: June 8, 2022 Regular Monthly Meeting.** Schmitz **MOVED** to accept and approve as presented the Minutes of the June 8, 2022 Regular Monthly Meeting. Phelps seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Webb, Phelps, Schmitz and Ouellette. Opposed: none. Abstention: Zamecnik. The motion was **carried**, 4-0-1.

**Visitor(s):** Deneen Hedge, a Clinton resident, to observe the meeting and possibly be a candidate to fill a vacancy.

**Land Acquisition Procedures.** Webb and Giaconia have drawn up a preliminary list of criteria for a property to meet to be considered for acquisition for open space. Webb will distribute the draft for the next meeting.

**Workshop:** Pollinator Pathway Project

Webb announced the joint presentation by the Conservation Commission and Beautification Committee to be held at the Henry Carter Hull Library on Saturday, July 16, 2022 from 11:00 AM to Noon. It is open to the public. There is no fee to attend.

Clerk Hynes advised that, upon consultation with the Town Clerk's Office, special meeting agendas are needed for both commissions, as there will be multiple members from both commissions attending. Minutes will have to be taken and filed in accordance with FOI procedures.

**Workshop: Dark Skies**

Webb advised that the Regulations Committee of the Planning and Zoning Commission took up the Commission's letter to Planning and Zoning and Consulting Town Planner John Guskowski at their recent meeting. [The meeting minutes were distributed prior to this meeting.]

Phelps, with input from Hynes, advised that the Planning and Zoning Commission Regulations Committee is working on proposed language to reflect changes to the zoning and/or subdivision regulations to incorporate elements to support light reduction to address artificial night light usage. The draft language proposed by the Committee will then be presented to the Commission for consideration and further action.

**Workshop: Residential Food Composting.** Web will contact Town Manager Kilduff on the status of this project.

**Workshop: Japanese Knotweed.**

Webb will be meeting with Nicki Dakis, a resident, who is very interested in educating people about knotweed and its proper management. A presentation is being considered.

Ouellette suggested DEEP be contacted as there may be funds available for eradication.

**Workshop: Town-owned Open Space Management.** Tabled to the next meeting.

**Correspondence/Education.**

Educational. Overview by Hynes of educational/informational events distributed prior to the start of the meeting.

Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Inc. July 1, 2022 Statement re: Allocation for Services, Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Zamecnik **MOVED** to send a \$50 donation to the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Inc. Ouellette seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Webb, Phelps, Schmitz, Ouellette and Zamecnik. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. The motion was **carried**, 5-0-0.

**Old/New Business**

- Membership.

- Maria Conklin, who expressed interest in the Commission, was not present at this meeting. She will be invited to the August Meeting.
- Terri O'Rourke, a resident, has expressed interest in the Commission. She will be invited to the August meeting.
- Deneen Hedge spoke about her time in Clinton first as a seasonal resident and now as a full-time resident. She is a passionate gardener and is very much interested in the value of open space/the environment. She expressed interest in joining the Commission and was directed to the Town's website and the Office of the Town Manager.
- Operating Budget FY 21/22. Webb purchased and submitted to Finance for reimbursement an invoice for the infrared camera to detect heat loss.
- Proposed Operating Budget FY 22/23. No official budget allocation notice has been received.
- Member Educational Opportunities. See above.
- Sustainable CT. Certification. Zamecnik advised the new committee is collecting information for submission to the State for the certification.
- Membership. See above.
- Library – Update: Purchase of Camera.
  - Webb purchased and delivered the camera to the Library on July 13, 2022, along with instructions for use.
- Open Space Acquisition: past and future.
  - Criteria for determination of potential site acquisitions. See above.
  - Zamecnik, with input from Ouellette, outlined the process by which the town applied for a grant from the State many years ago. The process took about ten years from the time the Open Space Advisory Committee n/k/a the Conservation Commission became aware of the opportunity to gain three contiguous sites adjacent to other land of the Connecticut Land Conservation Trust (CLCT), to the awarding of the grant. The grant was not accepted by the Town leaders and efforts were successful in the transfer of the grant to the CLCT. The CLCT then purchased the properties with the grant money, a donation from the Connecticut Water Company, money from the Town of Clinton and their own funds.
  - The Uncommitted Open Space Map in the Open Space Index, locates potential sites for consideration for acquisition.
  - Action items:
    - Webb will distribute the spreadsheet he and Giaconia developed for the criteria for acquisition sites to the Commission prior to the next meeting.
    - Webb will interview Ouellette and Zamecnik regarding the grant process that was followed for the prior grant, prior to the next meeting.

- Town GIS. Zamecnik advised she received confirmation from Tighe & Bond, the GIS Manager for the Town, that the Open Space Index mappings will be posted on the Town’s website at a cost of \$1,000.

**Additions to Next Agenda:** Wednesday, August 10, 2022 Regular Monthly Meeting

1. Workshop: Coastal Resiliency
2. Report: Japanese Knotweed Presentation – July 16, 2022 at the Library.

There being no further business, Ouellette **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Schmitz seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Webb, Phelps, Schmitz, Ouellette and Zamecnik. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. The motion was **carried**, 5-0-0. The meeting was **adjourned** at 7:52 P.M. to August 10, 2022 Virtual Regular Monthly Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sherry Lee Hynes*  
Sherry Lee Hynes, Clerk

E-mail: Town Clerk  
Town Council