



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2023

Chairman Nick Webb called the Hybrid October 11, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Clinton to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Rose Room of the William Scranton Andrews Memorial Town Hall, 54 East Main Street, Clinton, Connecticut.

Members present: Chairman Nick Webb, Secretary Mary Jo Phelps, Bertram Schmitz, Lawrence Ouellette and Joan Ulate (on line and then arrived at 6:40 P.M.)
Members absent: Mark Giaconia and Catherine Zamecnik
Also present: Town Planner Abby Y. Piersall (Town Planner Piersall), Clerk Sherry Lee Hynes (Clerk Hynes), and, Mike Houde and Mike Castiglioni of the Clinton Land Conservation Trust

1. MINUTES

- a. Review and Approval of the September 13, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes (Note: the JLAS Minutes will be approved separately.)

Phelps **MOVED** to accept and approve as presented the Minutes of the September 13, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented. Ouellette seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Webb, Phelps, Schmitz and Ouellette. Opposed: None. Abstention: Ulate (on line, no audio). The motion **carried**, 4-0-1.

Ulate left the meeting at 6:35 P.M. and did not return.

- 2. **CHAIR COMMENTS.** Clerk Hynes advised Webb that the Annual Report for Fiscal year 22/23 is due. He will draft the report and send it to Town Planner Piersall. It will tentatively be added to the November 8, 2023 Regular Meeting as an action item.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

- a. **Workshops**

- i. Pollinator Pathway Project

- Webb suggested a joint effort with the Beautification Committee.

- The Beautification Committee is giving out seed packets at the Library at their Presentation on the Pollinator Pathway Project.

- ii. Residential Food Composting

- Webb advised that participation is increasing weekly.

- Zamecnik is preparing an article for social media.

Ulate arrived at 6:42 P.M.

Phelps reported that the Library has agreed to let the Commission have a table at the Library for public education on any Saturday. The Commission, by consensus, chose October 21, 2023 from 10 – 4. Webb volunteered to sit from 10 to noon. Phelps will circulate a sign-up sheet. All are encouraged to attend.

iii. Japanese Knotweed

Webb will be taking photographs for public education.

iv. Open Space Set Aside Subcommittee

Town Planner Piersall is drafting a proposed amendment to Section 5.8 of the Subdivision Regulations to be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission. She will incorporate some of Ouellette's draft regulation into hers.

b. Old Business

i. Membership – Student Member – Tabled to the September 13, 2023

Phelps advised that she spoke with staff at The Morgan School. At this time there does not appear to be student interest because of the availability of numerous other school extra-curricular opportunities.

ii. Library – Public Use of Infrared Camera – develop public information

Webb tabled this to cooler weather.

iii. Land Acquisition Open Space Plan – Town Planner

Town Planner Piersall advised that this is a place holder. It will be addressed at future meetings.

Ouellette spoke about the Land Acquisition Committee of which he is a member.

Webb advised he and Giaconia used some of the materials generated from them in the presentation they prepared.

Town Planner Piersall and the Commission had a general discussion on land acquisition criteria.

iv. Consideration – Request for Funding, Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Inc.

Phelps looked into this organization and reported that it is active in the promotion of conservation efforts and providing education opportunities. She attended several of their presentations and they were very informative. They also act as a liaison between students and engineers.

Phelps **MOVED** to donate, provided the line item is in the approved budget, a \$100 donation to the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Inc. Ouellette seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Webb, Phelps, Schmitz, Ouellette and Ulate. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. The motion **carried**, 5-0-0.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Additions to Next Regular Meeting Agenda: Wednesday: November 8, 2023
None at this time other than that mentioned above.
- b. Dumpsters along the Indian River Embankment. The dumpsters were recently moved immediately adjacent to the guardrails

Ouellette **MOVED** to authorize Webb to contact Todd Hajek, Director, Department of Public Works regarding relocating the dumpsters further away and at the foot of the railroad tracks, the original location for them. Phelps seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Webb, Phelps, Schmitz, Ouellette and Ulate. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. The motion was carried, 5-0-0.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

6. JOINT LAND ACQUISITION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Co-Chairman Lawrence Ouellette called the Subcommittee Meeting to order.

Present: Co-Chairman Lawrence Ouellette and Nick Webb, Mike Houde and Mike Castiglioni

Absent: Mark Giaconia and Alan Felgate

Also present: Town Planner Abby Y. Piersall, Clerk Sherry Lee Hynes, and, Bertram Schmitz, Mary Jo Phelps and Joan Ulate, all of the Clinton Conservation Commission

- a. Review and Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2023 Meeting. Tabled to the end of the meeting.
- b. Review and Approval of the September 16, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes Tabled to the November 8, 2023 Meeting.
- c. Possible Land Acquisition for Open Space. 0 Killingworth Turnpike, Map 28 Block 39 Lot 114

Ouellette gave an overview of the September 16, 2023 site walk with members of the Clinton Land Conservation Trust (CLCT). The CLCT Board of Directors subsequently met and voted in favor of exploring the possible purchase of the property. The CLCT would like to meet with the Town and with the property owner to discuss same. Giaconia is contacting the owner to set up a meeting. A meeting with the Town will be set thereafter. Town Planner Piersall will join the meetings if possible.

The Committee and Piersall discussed the process and procedures of land acquisition.

Houde advised that a member of the CLCT has contacted Eversource regarding a possible easement to allow access over their property to CLCT properties.

- d. Return to: Review and Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2023 Meeting
Castiglioni **MOVED** to accept and approve the Minutes of the JLAC Minutes of September 13, 2023 Meeting. Houde seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Ouellette, Web, Houde and Castiglioni. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. The motion **carried**, 4-0-0.

There being no further business, Houde **MOVED** to adjourn the JLAS meeting. Castiglioni seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Ouellette, Web, Houde and Castiglioni. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. The motion **carried**, 4-0-0. The subcommittee meeting was **adjourned** at 7:47 P.M.

RETURN to: New Business – Dumpster

Town Planner Piersall contacted Hajek during the meeting. The dumpsters will be moved on October 12, 2023.

There being no further business, Ouellette **MOVED** to adjourn the regular meeting. Phelps seconded the meeting. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Well, Phelps, Schmitz, Ouellette and Ulate. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. The motion **carried**, 5-0-0. The meeting was **adjourned** at 7:47 P.M. to the November 8, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Lee Hynes
Sherry Lee Hynes, Clerk

Posted: Town Clerk
Website