



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes - January 3, 2024, Meeting - Goshen Town Hall Conference Room and Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman, Iain Kinsella, called the January 3, 2024, meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Present at Goshen Town Hall Conference Room: Iain Kinsella-Chair and Paul Gallo-Vice Chair

Present on ZOOM: Cindy Barrett, Annette Lott, Jason Masi and Sue Rinaldi.

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 6, 2023, meeting were emailed for review. Paul Gallo made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Annette Lott. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Iain reported the following:

- The First Selectman, Todd Carusillo, was emailed regarding the inquiries from Marissa Wright and Sarah Leonard to be considered for members on the Conservation Commission. Todd responded that the Commission is full, that there are no openings at present, and it is on record that they are interested.
- Budget letter was received from Virginia Perry, First Selectman. Admin. Asst. and will be addressed under new business.
- Email was received from First Selectman regarding email address request from Goshen News. Iain will contact Todd and he will offer his email for contact as Chair of the Commission.
- Information from Joe Welsh, Aquarion Water Company, regarding bridge damage on trails.

OLD BUSINESS:

Torrington Water Company fishing by permit at reservoir: Iain reported that he and Joe Welsh, Manager of Natural Resources from Aquarion Water Company, walked the whole trail on East Street North from the south gate all the way down to the reservoir and back. In the past, it was noted that Torrington Water Company was less than communicative regarding this topic.

After the hike, they felt they had a good assessment of the trail. Ultimately, the reason why fishing and other recreational activities are not allowed on certain reservoirs like the Rubin Hart Reservoir is that it is considered a primary drinking water source reservoir for the treatment plant. North Pond is a secondary reservoir and recreational activities are allowed by permit.

Trail maintenance reports: Iain reported that Joe Welsh, resident, did not walk the Town Hill Trail this past month.

Iain reported that on Friday, Dec. 29, he and Joe Welsh walked the whole loop of the Terry Hall/ Hart Hollow at the Aquarion property on East Street North and looked at the two bridges that sustained damage from the July storm. It was impressive. The construction of the bridges was of telephone pole supports and heavy pressure treated wood and they were taken away by the water which Iain estimated at 8 foot level. The first one coming in at the North entrance was carried downstream approximately 100 yards downstream and up on the bank and into a pile. Aquarion did remove the bridge from the river at the mouth of the reservoir.

After observing the damage, Joe Welsh, Manager of Natural Resources from Aquarion, is in support of the common interest of replacing the bridges and Iain will follow up with Carolyn Giampe, Director, Sustainability & Environmental Management at Aquarion Water.

Iain and Joe discussed the replacement possibility of a cable bridge which might be more resilient to a storm event like this past July. Discussion was had among members about the possible use of cable bridges on the trail and this will be researched fully as an option. Iain will contact Aquarion to move forward on this.



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Sue Rinaldi reported that she had been out on the Town Hill Trail and it was in great shape. Thanks were given to Joe Welsh for his efforts on this trail. The John Ross Trail is also in great shape but the trail sign at the south entrance is missing. North Goshen trails were also in good shape and Sue noted that there are a few places that she will take care of removing debris with her chain saw.

Discussion of replacing trail marker signs and blazes on trees for better clarification of where the trails split was had. Sue repaired plastic tubes that hold information papers and stakes on the trail as well.

Paul Gallo hopes to get to the cleaning of the wood duck boxes on the pond when the pond freezes. Last year, the pond did not freeze and he could not clean them. It is hoped that we can accomplish this task. An email will be sent out.

Bantam Lake watershed project status: No report at this meeting.

East Street North trail grant discussion: Iain reported no news this month. He will contact Joyce Mowrey to get an update on submitting again.

Goshen Town Topics future articles: Annette Lott submitted an article for the winter issue on the spotted lanternfly. Thanks were given for this excellent article. The next article deadline is February 19, 2024. Future articles are welcome.

Discussion was had regarding where to place the game cam and the possibility of placing it on the pond at the East Street North Trail to monitor the activity at the wood duck box. Paul will look into the safe placement of the cam on the island in hopes of getting some images for a future article.

Goshen Town Hall Walkway beds/Pollinator Garden Maintenance: These beds will be taken care of in the spring.

Goshen Open Space Plan 2025: Iain suggested to take a look at the Plan which is on the Goshen Town website, it will be reviewed and will be updated by the Conservation Commission for the Plan of Conservation and Development 2025.

New Business:

Conservation Commission budget was emailed to members for review and monies for supplies could be used for mulch if needed. Sue Rinaldi made a motion to accept the budget as presented with the same allocations as 2023 and it was seconded by Paul Gallo. The motion carried.

Discussion of a new QR Code for the town of Goshen trail rules/maps is needed and Iain and Jason will take care of this.

Agenda for next month was reviewed and Torrington Water Company fishing by permit at reservoir will be changed to "Torrington Water Company/Aquarion bridge building".

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Gallo, seconded by Sue Rinaldi at 7:16 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Barrett
Cynthia A. Barrett

Received Jan 5, 2024 9:25 AM

Attest *[Signature]*
Asst. Goshen Town Clerk