



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes February 2, 2022 meeting

This meeting was recorded via Zoom.US and is available as a recording on the Goshen website. Access was by ZOOM meeting by computer at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85714857222>

Access conference call meeting by phone at 1-929-205-6099

ATTENDANCE:

Present in person in Goshen Town Hall Conference Room: Paul Gallo and Todd Carusillo - First Selectman.

Present on ZOOM: Cynthia Barrett, Jeff Damiano, Iain Kinsella, Jason Masi, and Suzanne Rinaldi.

Guests on ZOOM: Paul Collins - Recycling Coordinator and Judi Armstrong.

Absent: Laura Saucier-Krukar.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Iain Kinsella called the February meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 5, 2022, meeting were presented for approval. Paul Gallo made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Jeff Damiano. There was no discussion, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None received.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pollinator Pathways Project: Planting is planned for spring of 2022 and the layout was approved by our previous Selectman.

Paul Collins, Recycling Coordinator, reported that the Recycling and Trash Committee is going to be sponsoring a Plastic Film Recycling Challenge in Goshen and the challenge is issued by Trex.

The idea is to collect 500 pounds of plastic film which is approximately 40,500 bags and other plastic films included are case over wraps for toilet paper, water bottles, and other stretchy plastic films.

The Challenge will run from the beginning of April to the beginning of October which corresponds to the Electronic Recycling events held in town. It will be promoted in the Goshen Town Topics and other ways of promotion will be discussed.

Todd Carusillo, First Selectman, has agreed to place one of the collection bins in the Town Hall hallway and other locations are being looked into to promote community participation.

The idea behind this is to receive a bench from Trex but to also get residents thinking about what goes into their trash bin, to do a better job of recycling as a community, and to also get items out of the trash that are not trash.

Paul explained that the \$90 that is paid quarterly to our individual trash hauler, like USAWaste, only takes our trash from Goshen to Torrington, and the town pays for it to be transported from Torrington to currently the incinerator facility in Hartford. Starting early this July, it will go from Torrington through Hartford to Ohio to be buried as the incinerator is closing in Hartford.

Paul noted that Goshen pays by the ton and 3 years ago it was about \$74 -75 a ton, last year it was \$92 a ton, this year it is \$105 and yesterday, Paul noted that under the new contract received for July 1 for next fiscal year it will be \$116 a ton. He noted that overall to the budget, it is going from \$80,000 for 2018 to \$160,000 next year and the only control we have on this is about what goes in the trash. The idea is to start really focusing on getting residents to understand what items can be recycled and where.



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Paul stated the Electronics Recycling events in April and October are really key because that is where you bring a retired vacuum cleaner, TV, and basically, any small appliance with a plug. Mattresses and box springs are also recycled at this event as well as paper shredding. Composting bins were promoted last year by the Recycling committee and 20 residents participated. Paul stated that approximately a third of the trash generated is compostable organics. The importance of the environmental aspect and economic issue to the town as a major expense growth item in our budget were stated. Paul noted that bulky waste removal, for example an old couch, is an item that is being worked on to provide a system to take care of these bulky items.

Also mentioned was the Household Hazardous Waste Day in June and that paint recycling is available at the True Value in Litchfield. Paul thanked the Commission for their anticipated participation and hopes that we will have that bench for the Pollinator Garden in the fall.

Iain Kinsella stated the Electronics Recycling event dates are April 9 and October 2, 2022, and Suzanne Rinaldi will add the bench to the design for the Pollinator Garden.

Todd Carusillo noted that after attending the last Recycling meeting and discussing ideas on getting the weight down, he and Paul met with the Building Inspector to discuss methods of keeping remodeling debris like plaster or old toilets out of the trash bins which adds to the weight. Todd noted that he would like to see through the permit process for new or remodeling construction, a requirement for the proper dumpster. He also suggested more education on how to recycle, be smart about the process and to spread the word to the town as costs are going up. Iain suggested doing an article on waste management and recycling in the next town topics.

Jason Masi stated that he was unaware of the trash situation and suggested that involvement with the school children as he has children in school should be considered and he volunteered to assist.

Discussion was had by members of their eagerness to participate in the plastic film challenge, the films included, the Recycling page on the Goshen Town Website, ideas for an article, and the importance of educating both children and parents. Also noted by Paul is the ability of Goshen Residents to recycle mattresses and boxsprings at the Cornwall Transfer Station by contacting them directly.

Torrington Water Company fishing by permit at reservoir: Iain had emailed Todd Carusillo regarding this and Todd suggested asking them to bring it before their Board of Directors. Iain has emailed Susan Suhanovsky at The Torrington Water Company in regard to asking for fishing by permit for Goshen residents only. He did this on January 25, 2022, and is awaiting a response. The Conservation Commission does trail maintenance there and permits are required to hike there.

Town Topics future articles: Dates for article submissions were checked on by Iain with Virginia Perry and the deadline for the next Town Topics is February 21, 2022. Laura Saucier-Krukar is working on an article, Paul Gallo is working on an article on moose, Iain relayed that he received pictures of moose from Todd and will forward these to Paul Gallo. Jeff Damiano is working on an article on invasive aquatic plants.

Trail maintenance reports: No reports from members this month but Suzanne Rinaldi reported that the parking lot at the East Street North Trail has not been plowed. She offered to plow if needed and Todd will check with Garrett Harlow, Public Works, regarding the plowing. Iain reported that he had been skating not the pond with his family and others were there as well.

Paul Gallo noted that the two duck boxes at the pond at the East Street North Trail could be cleaned soon now that the ice is thick enough. Members agreed to assist and Paul will email when a date is set.

Game camera results: Iain reminded the committee that one camera had been stolen and the other has not been put back out.



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Bat detector study data: Iain reported that Laura is still awaiting the bat-detector study data from DEEP for her article on bats.
Bantam Lake watershed project status: Discussion was had by members regarding the nutrient study report, questions about sampling locations, cost of testing, location of other bodies of water associated with flowing into Bantam Lake, involvement of Woodridge Lake sewer system, runoff from Town Hill Road and Todd reported that he had conversation with the Bantam Lake Protective Association this week. He reported that Dexter Kinsella and Mark Harris will be working on this project as residents and Todd will share documents for the Commission to review as well.

DEEP Property boundary marking at Beech Hill property: Iain reported that he had no status change on this and that Laura was going to reach out to DEEP. The Goshen Land Trust would like to connect their trails there and Iain stated that if needed, we could volunteer to assist in the future.

DEEP grant suggestions and submission: Iain said we can continue to think about this and Todd reported that the Friends of Dog Pond are in the process of properly submitting a basic aquatic invasive removal grant this week. Share any ideas with Iain.

Goshen Greens Project: Iain had previously circulated via email the draft document from Doreen Deary and noted that discussion was had at the last meeting. Discussion was had regarding this with the ideas of the Pollinator Pathway, a garden by the Commission and the Goshen Business Circle, and the Commission will help if possible.

2022 Proposed Budget for Conservation Commission: The deadline for the budget is Feb. 8 and discussion was had regarding it with keeping clerical, Iain reviewed that the Commission maintains the walkway garden in front of Town Hall and the newly planted foundation border at Town Hall that was installed in 2021 by Goshen Public Works, related mulch expenses and other supply needs. Suzanne Rinaldi offered assisting with purchasing mulch and reminded the Commission that she plans to trim boxwoods this spring. Paul Gallo made a motion to approve the budget in its current form as distributed and was seconded by Jeff Damiano. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Todd Carusillo had forwarded information on urban and community forestry grants offered through the CT Department of Energy and Iain will circulate it to members via email and members can evaluate possibilities. Agenda items for next meeting were reviewed.

Paul Gallo suggested to make time to walk the trails and he will circulate email for this and the duck box clean up date.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Gallo, seconded by Cindy Barrett. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Barrett
Cynthia Barrett, Secretary - GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Received Feb 7th, 2022, 11:48 A.M

Attest Dario H. Lopez Asst.
Goshen Town Clerk