

Beacon Falls Conservation Commission
10 Maple Ave.
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Special Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2014
(Draft Copy-Subject to Revision)

1. Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Diane Betkoski called the meeting to order at 6:51 PM.

Commissioners present: Mike Bouchard, Jeff Kean, Michael Opuszynski (arrived at 6:53)
Commissioner absent: Secretary Tanya Gutierro, Sophie Zyla
Others present: Joe Rodorigo

Due to lack of quorum at 6:51, Chairman Betkoski suggested the October 6 meeting be cancelled and instead hold an informational workshop.

D. Betkoski amended the agenda to delete the item under Outreach Activities and instead, Mr. Joe Rodorigo will speak under Public Comment.

Public Comment:

Joe Rodorigo, 42Bonna St: For the 2015 FY budget, BOF went thru budget line by line, Winter Bros is trash collectors, get paid back for anything recycled. He stressed there is value in recycling.

With the arrival of Michael Opuszynski, a quorum was present. Chairman D. Betkoski called the meeting to order at 6:55 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

J. Rodorigo continued that rather than adopting a full blown recycling program other communities have doubled the size of recycling containers to increase the amount being recycled. He suggested increasing the size of the recycling bin size to a 32-55 gallon bin. Town residents would need to purchase their own regular trash bin and put a recycling sticker on it for pick up.

Recycling more material and having less in the regular trash pickup would ultimately lower the tipping charges for the town trash removal.

He recommended that the Conservation Commission take on this task to educate the public on what can be recycled based on what Winter Brothers will accept. Winter Brothers will take materials placed in any recycling bin. He commented that a state grant may be available to purchase recycling bins.

He added that information can be sent electronically via Region 16 to inform residents about the town's recycling effort.

M. Opuszynski asked if there were problems with town residents putting regular trash in the recycling bins.

J. Rodorigo indicated that it has not been a huge problem nor has Winter Brothers imposed any fines to the town.

M. Opuszynski asked about the state grant for recycling containers.

J. Rodorigo said he would email the information to D. Betkoski.

D. Betkoski asked if residents, business and schools were treated differently.

J. Rodorigo noted that the Winter Brothers waste pick up contract with the town doesn't include residents at Beacon Hill Commons, Pond Spring Village or Chatfield Farms, Region 16 schools or town businesses.

J. Rodorigo suggested the easiest way to increase recycling efforts would be for town residents use a larger recycling container.

D. Betkoski suggested further discussion with the Conservation Commission after receiving more state grant information and potentially list increasing the town's recycling efforts as a goal for 2015.

J. Rodorigo suggested partnering with some of the non-profit groups in town such as Boy Scouts or Rotary Club to help with this project. It was also suggested considering this as a Senior Project for WRHS students.

D. Betkoski commented that this was a great idea and information but shared her concern about a shortage of volunteers and having the Conservation Commission taking on more duties.

M. Opuszynski suggested looking into potential grants now while they still may be available.

ACTION: M. Bouchard will research the Winter Brothers' web site for a list of recyclable materials, availability of stickers for recycling containers and what, if any, specifications for approved containers, if there is an industry standard.

ACTION: D. Betkoski will forward any recycling grant information from J. Rodorigo.

M. Opuszynski will bring up this issue at the Regional Planners meeting

2. Approval of Minutes – July 7, August 4, & September 8, 2014 meetings -

Due to lack of quorum of commissioners the July 7, August 4, & September 8, 2014 meeting minutes could not be approved and were tabled.

3. **Correspondence**

- DEEP Fall 2014 newsletter
- information from DEEP about dam work on Shaw Pond Dam
- Audubon magazine Sep-Oct
- I&W to pay for CACIWC dues? Mike O will check the minutes
- Rep-Am battery recycling article from 9/17/14

4. **Comments from the Public** - Joe Rodorigo, 42 Bonna Street, see notes above.

5. **Outreach Activities**

J. Rodorigo - Chair Finance Committee - Recycling Proposal (guest)

6. **Membership Update -**

- Registration for CACIWC annual meeting to be held on November 15 in Wallingford. The keynote address will be presented by State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) Commissioner Rob Klee. Information on sessions are listed at <http://www.caciwc.org/pages/annualMtg/index.html>

ACTION: Commissioners interested in attending the November 15 CACIWC conference should notify D. Betkoski so that registrations can be paid for by the Conservation Commission.

D. Betkoski brought up the CT Land Conservation Council membership for discussion. She noted that it provides education and presentations for advocating land preservation. Their annual conference will be held on March 21, 2015 at Wesleyan University in Middletown. See <http://www.ctconservation.org/annualconference>

Motion to renew CT Land Conservation Council membership for one year for \$100: Bouchard/Kean; all aye.

- CACIWC membership dues
ACTION: M. Opuszynski will confirm that I&W will pay for the CAWAIC dues for both the Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions.
- 2015 meeting dates review
Clerk M. Melville presented the draft 2015 meeting schedule which was approved by consensus.
ACTION: M. Melville will submit the Conservation Commission's 2015 meeting schedule to the Beacon Falls Town Clerk

7. **Budget Update**

- Month to date report - question on balance; \$481.85 balance in land acquisition fund, due to bank fees, down from the original deposit of \$500.
ACTION: D. Betkoski will contact Town Treasurer Mike Krenesky to request moving the 2014-2015 budgeted \$500 into the Land Acquisition account and ask for clarification of the bank fees; if it is an annual or a one-time fee.
- 2013-2014 year end budget statement correction
As of 9/30/14 the Conservation Commission was on track with regards to their budget. D. Betkoski had not received a corrected Conservation Commission June 30, 2014 report.
ACTION: D. Betkoski will request a corrected Conservation Commission June 30, 2014 report from Denise Weik in the finance office.

8. **Land Use Committee**

- Committee meeting update

M. Opuszynski and M. Bouchard attended the September 24 meeting.

M. Opuszynski was considered for the new chairman position. There was some confusion about alternate representatives which will need to be resolved before this can become official.

M. Bouchard shared that this was an introductory meeting. Each member representing their commission/board discussed their current activities. There was also discussion of land use regulations and questions regarding their validity since these appeared to be draft versions and were never signed.

The next meeting of the Land Use Committee will be held on Wednesday October 22.

9. **Open Space Management**

- Open Space Listing - D. Betkoski: no more feedback on updating deeds
- CGS on Open Space - CT General statutes
D. Betkoski did some research on definitions to use when updating ordinances:
Establishment of conservation commission; need to use consistent language.
- Open Space Preservation Fund - Ordinance Review
Creating open space preservation fund: need to define open space, quoting CT General Statute 8-25B for funds to be used for open space, to be preserved in perpetuity and protected; for recreation and conservation.

ACTION: D. Betkoski will email ordinance revisions to the commissioners for review.

