

**Beacon Falls Conservation Commission  
10 Maple Avenue  
Beacon Falls, CT 06403**



**BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Monthly Meeting  
December 14, 2021  
MINUTES  
(Subject to Revision)**

**1. Call to Order /Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**

KJ called the meeting to order at 6:49 P.M

**Members Present:** Kristen Jabanoski (KJ), Andrew Keane (AK), Julian Thomas (JT), Cody Muth (CM)

**Members Absent:** Ellie McAdam (EM), Ruth Burritt (RB), Lori Paradis Brant (LPB)

**Others Present:** None

**2. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings**

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 12, 2021, KJ/CM, all ayes. There was no meeting in November.

**3. Announcements** – JT – the last time we spoke briefly about the building down the street, the old mini market. CM – it was going to cost too much money to bring it up to fire code and his current rent was too high, so he closed. AK – welcome Cody! KJ – your background will be helpful, welcome!

**4. Comments from the Public** – KJ – I mentioned last meeting that a member of the public went to Lantern Ridge, and she had a hard time finding the kiosk and the trail. I spoke with her further and she was able to navigate it better and go for a hike. It was a little overgrown, so she had some difficulty finding out where to go.

**5. Review of Town Boards & Commissions minutes** – KJ – typically we review P&R and P&Z to make sure we are up to date with things going on in town. AK – P&Z rejected the zoning change for Hopp Brook. I did not see anything else significant for IWWC. BOS meeting was last night and there was not really anything that impacts open space. AK – a goal for this commission in 2022 would be to collaborate more with other boards/commissions.

**6. Correspondence** – None

**7. Old Business**

- a. Lantern Ridge Park Updates (Jabanoski/Keane)- KJ – There have not been any updates since our last meeting. The plant survey done by a non-profit took place end of October/early November. We did find the rare plant growing. AK – we mapped out the trails and have been working with the girl scouts. We put up boundary lines. Someone posted on Lantern Ridge google page, some new photos. The beginning of the trail is a little rough and muddy. This may discourage some people from entering. We talked about maybe putting in a board walk. JT – how long is that? AK – it is about 20-30 ft. JT – so we could lay gravel? KJ – it is technically a wetland so we wouldn't want to disturb the flow of water. CM – they have a lot of the boardwalks on trails in Ansonia. KJ – they would encourage more people to get out there. CM – I think the biggest issue is we drive by and

it does not pop out at you. If we dug out some of the brier and put in some pea stone to define the driveway. We should also try to make it wider. KJ – the signage faces Seymour too. AK – all of those would be helpful. CM – I would like to bring the Boy/Girl Scouts back too, maybe they could build picnic tables etc. and put them up on the website. If people are really going there, then they will want to have more trails etc. The general parking lot is in dyer need of a facelift. KJ – I agree. Right away we could work on tables and signage. There is low hanging fruit we can do now and then work on other items as well. JT – do we have a map of locations of open space, bodies of water, marsh land etc. in order of importance by what is needed first? AK – in terms of what actions we can take? JT – yes, something that tells us areas of concerns and how to rate them. AK – the PCOD lists out the areas, strategic vision of that very thing. What the strengths and weaknesses are. It is up for renewal in 2023 and it is owned by the P&Z Commission. We do have a list of all the open spaces and conservation criteria where there has been some of that ranking for conservation value. JT – what about a list of the lands we are interested in? KJ – that is included by ranking the factors and what would be highest priority of the town. AK – those same criteria could be extended to other parcels in town as well. KJ – AK and LPB worked on this earlier this year. JT – I feel like we need to get the public on board and as interested as we are. I could do public speaking and hikes, outdoor events, completing things that will attract people. We can get the public involved and make it more fun. KJ – maybe we can organize a winter hike and do some outreach on our social media. We could be more active on the Facebook page. We used to have the page that AI maintained but that is gone now. We can even collaborate with Parks and Rec. AK – just generally speaking we should set some goals for 2022. JT – would you say that Lantern Ridge is the focus? AK – from the perspective of the Conservation Commission, that is the land we oversee and is our direct responsibility. In regard to other open space, indexing, being involved in town and establishing other connections in town is another piece we need to pick up.

- b. Current Development Projects in Town (Jabanoski) – KJ – I only knew about Hopp Brook, which we already discussed.
- c. Fire Conditions Sign – KJ – I do not know the status and will email Ruth after this meeting to determine when it will be installed, and we can have a celebration/ribbon cutting.
- d. Beacon Falls Conservation Page- no action taken

**8. New Business** – KJ – nominations for Chair & Vice Chair

Motion made to nominate JT as Chair, by AK seconded by CM, all ayes.

Motion made to nominate KJ as Vice Chair, AK, seconded by CM, all ayes.

Motion made to nominate EM as Secretary, seconded by KJ, all ayes.

CM – I will be dissembling the Rimmon School House and milling all the woodwork for the new building. We are not going to be able to move it, so we are going to take it apart and salvage what we can. We have a place for storage until its able to be reconstructed.

AK – Do we want to set goals for 2022? KJ – maybe we should do that in January? AK – lets put together a rough draft and then discuss next month. KJ – we talked about reaching out to other stakeholders and going over that criteria with them. I think that will be good to have others look at it, improve on it and share it. AK – maybe work on establishing relationships with other Commissions. KJ – Lantern Ridge improvements discussed above. Also, doing outreach, guided hikes and maybe make a goal of having a certain number of those events, like 3 or 4 a year. JT – I think we should collaborate with the FD especially on the social media platform. JT – my neighbor owns Jones Farm and mentioned if there is anything that he could do to help our Commission to just let him know. KJ – that is great. AK – remain active as an advisory committee. There should be a Land Use Committee that P&Z can consult with regarding projects and the Conservation Commission should be active and propose recommendations.

**9. Open Space Strategy and Planning** – AK – will send out updated document to Commission.

10. **Petition from Commissioners** – AK – it is nice to have new members and it will be great to get new ideas, energy and connections that you bring will be valuable.

11. **Payment of Bills** – None

12. **Executive Session (if needed)** - None

13. **Adjournment**

Motion made by AK to adjourn the meeting at 7:45PM, KJ seconded by all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kerry McAndrew*

Clerk, Conservation Commission