

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



**BEACON FALLS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Monthly Meeting
January 11, 2022
MINUTES
(Subject to Revision)**

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

KJ called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M

Members Present: Kristen Jabanoski (KJ), Andrew Keane (AK), Julian Thomas (JT), Cody Muth (CM), Ellie McAdam (EM), Ruth Burritt (RB), Lori Paradis Brant (LPB)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: None

2. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 14, 2021, RB/CM, LPB abstained all other ayes.

3. Announcements – None

4. Comments from the Public – None

- 5. Review of Town Boards & Commissions minutes – AK – I reviewed some of the meeting minutes. One item to note is the new proposal for a solar panel development going in Lopus Road. I have not seen the exact plans, but I think they are on the parcel where there was a previous farm. I think there may be opportunity in the future for feedback. RB – there is already one solar farm. That one just appeared. AK – this is different part of land. CM – it's the Rydzik farm and they sold it. Everything is approved as far as I know. RB – do we know how big it is going to be? CM – the extend from where the farmhouse is to all the way where the trucking company lot is. AK – one general comment, not particular to this case, but there is farmland that is Conservation criteria that brings value to the town to have farmland. LPB – does anyone know if there has been a recent Land Use Committee Meeting? Clerk – there has not been a meeting in a few years and that Committee needs membership appointment. LPB – I would propose that we reach out to the First Selectman and request a Land Use Committee meeting. RB – having been on the Land Use committee, they never met. LPB – it is an important function of our town and an important piece of government. We could also do a presentation about the land protection criteria that Andrew has been leading us on. RB – I agree. AK – I think that is a great idea. I think we should nominate someone tonight and then notify them via a letter to call a Land Use Committee meeting. LPB – read Land Use Commission mission statement for those on the phone. LPB – is there a person on this Committee who would be interested in joining the Land Use Committee up and running. CM, RB, JT, EM are all interested. EM – couldn't we just merge the two? LPB – no, what we do is recommend a Commission member to the BOS to be appointed. KJ – so the representative from Conservation would represent our mission. AK – the Town is missing out by not having this Committee meeting. LPB – I would**

recommend that we decide on writing a letter to Board of Selectman that the Committee should be reformed and provide our representative recommendation. **AK – motion to send a formal letter from Conservation to Rich Minnick and copying the First Selectman and other Land Use Committees calling the Land Use Committee to order, seconded by LPB, all ayes.** AK – there was a lot of activity over the holidays and an opportunity for all Commissions to be involved in and that is a new development between Seymour and Beacon Falls. There is more information on the Planning & Zoning page. Gerry also wrote a letter of support for the opportunity this will bring to Beacon Falls. He specifically addresses the POCD in his letter and the details are laid out very nicely. This is still in its preliminary stage. EM – it is my understanding that Mr. Haynes wanted to create a similar center like they did in Oxford, creating an economic boom to Beacon Falls. LPB – I got the same impression. LPB – we should be looking at our Conservation criteria so when these projects come up, we have a process in place. Maybe 2 or 3 of us can create a working group going forward.

6. Correspondence – None

7. Old Business

- a. Lantern Ridge Park Updates (Jabanoski/Keane)- KJ – nothing new to report. We were out there once in December.
- b. Current Development Projects in Town (Jabanoski) – KJ – we covered a bit of that already. AK – the project on Burton Road, there are potential buyers working with the Town.
- c. Fire Conditions Sign – RB – Jamie G. from Public Works called me, and he did not know anything about it. Cal said it is in charge of them to do it and I will follow up with them. KJ – maybe difficult to install now if the ground is frozen. RB – Jamie was on board with having a welcoming ceremony. I just need to get a date.
- d. Beacon Falls Conservation Page- AK – I will reach out to Kerry to organize going forward on this. RB – I would like to see all Commission members have a bio.

8. New Business

Motion made to elect JT as Chair, made by LPB seconded by RB, all ayes.

Motion made to elect KJ as Vice Chair, made by LPB, seconded by RB, all ayes.

Motion made to elect EM as Secretary made by LPB, seconded by RB, all ayes.

9. Open Space Strategy and Planning – KJ – we discussed this with the Land Use discussion. AK – I will send the documents out to the Commission.

10. Petition from Commissioners – KJ – we discussed organizing a hike and I hope to make it to the next Park & Rec meeting and I am excited to organize a hike for spring. LPB – can we work to consider doing this as a trail's day. Publicity would be a nice added boost. KJ – yes, we can do a few planned hikes including one for trails day in June. The one in the spring can be a warmup! KJ – we can add the planned hikes on under new business. I know there is a deadline to get on trails day schedule and I will look into that. March or April for the first hike and then the second could be in June. LPB – I brought this up in the fall but would like to circle back and add this to next month's agenda under new business to review the International Dark Sky Institution and the negative impact of night lighting pollution. The website is called Darksky.org.

11. Payment of Bills – Motion made to reimburse EM for Conservation CACIWAC Membership in the amount of \$65.00, KJ/AK, all ayes.

12. Executive Session (if needed) - None

13. Adjournment

Motion made by RB to adjourn the meeting at 7:32PM, CM seconded by all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerry McAndrew
Clerk, Conservation Commission