



**Town of Beacon Falls
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
C/O Town Clerk
10 Maple Avenue Beacon Falls, CT 06403
October 12, 2023
(Subject to Revision)**

Member Present: Julian Thomas (**JT**), Joann Delenick (**JD**), Victor Santos (**VS**), Larry Wissink (**LW**), Lori Paradis-Brant (**LPB**), Cody Muth (**CM**)

Members Absent: N/A

Others Present: N/A

1. **Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag**

JT called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM and led the assembled in the pledge of allegiance.

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

Motion to approve the 09/14/2023 meeting minutes by **CM**, seconded by **VS**. All ayes.

3. **Comments from the public:** None

4. **Correspondence:**

a. Yearly Funds Invoice – Signed/Approved

b. Water Diversion Permit – CT DEEP. (**Clerk/NP**) O&G has a 25-year permit with the State, it has been dormant for 10 years and is up for renewal. The only thing we will be processing is sand. Otherwise, it will be used as storage. It won't be up and running until the next year or two. It will not be a hub for O&G **JT** Is the permit exactly the same, are they allowed less or more? Clerk (**Clerk/NP**) Will look into that.

5. **Old Business:**

a. **Announcements:** None

b. **Lantern Ridge Park Updates:** No updates

c. **Open Space Strategy & Planning:** No updates

d. **39 Acre Property** – **JT** We haven't had any movement **LPB** I went up there a couple times and saw tire tracks. The trail marks were mostly there from Andrew and Kristin trying to mark out a trail, I did receive confirmation that those were their trail markers. **JT** Another thing I would like to do is take a peek at other properties we have access to such as Westwood Estates & Oakwood Estates. (Commission reviews a map and talks about a few locations within the town.) **LPB** I was thinking since we just call it Acre 39 maybe a good way to get the public involved is to have a naming contest for the property to get people involved and make something fun. I think most of us probably didn't know there was public land there. **JT** The town owns Matthies, but it is not something that we're involved with, correct? **LPB** Park and Rec does that but we are responsible for maintaining our list of open space and Matthies is Open Space so we should be looking at those parks. (Discussion Followed about Historical Places within the Town and National Historic Society) **JD** If anyone happens to know of any engineers interested in any historical work they are interested and need help in developing the restoration of Matthies and other places like that. (Discussion followed about biological surveys) **LPB** Once we go through the list of all the properties that we own I was thinking today do we have any conservation easements? Do we have an overall plan that we identify? **JD** We should put all that in the POCD. **LPB** What do you guys think of doing the involvement in the 39 acre? How do we get the public engagement? **LW** I like your idea of having a contest to name it. I think because it's next to Pent Rd. the public would be interested. **CM** And they can park at the rec park. **LW** It feels like we should make the hiking trail then do the name. **CM** Lets build it first then do that. **LPB** What will our timeline be? **VS/CM** I would say next Summer.

e. **Ordinance Review:** No update. **LPB** I feel strongly that we accepted open space properties from the developer without doing our due diligence and in our ordinance of the Conservation Commission it is our due diligence that we review or make recommendations about what portions are to be accepted as open space because today we would not accept those. **JT** Bonna Dr. we mentioned last meeting about the community garden as I believe the community garden, we currently have will no longer exist due to the Community Center being built there. We also should look into Highland Ridge



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which is our access into Naugatuck State Forest. I have not seen any movement there. **CM** I would rather do something with that than the 39 Acre property because you get direct access. Do you guys want to put that on the agenda for next month? Highland Ridge and Bonna Dr. Because we could make quicker results with this than Acre 39 due to the weather. (Discussion and review of map followed). **JT** When the springtime comes, we should all get to every single one of these sites and see what's there and what's going on, is there any good access, etc.? Then come back here and say we saw this and this and we can do this and this.

7. **Petition from Commissioners:** POCD Discussion – Add to agenda for next month – Commission will overlook materials.
8. **Executive Session:** Not Needed
9. **Adjournment:** **CM** made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM: **VS** seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Pastor
Clerk, Conservation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes – Conservation Commission
Clerked by Nicole Pastor
Meeting Date: 10/12/23