



**Town of Beacon Falls
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
C/O Town Clerk
10 Maple Avenue Beacon Falls, CT 06403
December 14, 2023
(Subject to Revision)**

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

Members Absent: Cody Muth (**CM**)

Others Present: N/A

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

JT called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM and led the assembled in the pledge of allegiance.

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

Motion to approve the 11/15/2023 meeting minutes by **VS**, seconded by **LW**. All ayes.

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

4. **Correspondence:** None

5. **Old Business:**

a. **Announcements:** **JT** I received an email from NVCOG for Recreational Trails Grant Opportunity DEEP has announced 2024 Round up of CT 2024 Trails Program. A total of 10 million dollars was approved for this grant fund. Funding is available to municipalities and other nonprofit organizations. That leaves a few options, there was a plan for Lantern Ridge to create a loop, Acre 39, or Lorraine Dr. As far as I'm concerned, we are the only ones who are thinking of something. I want to dive deeper into this. **JD** I have thoughts on another location with that kind of money is Matthies Park. I went on the Hayride and there's a trail there which is in bad need of maintenance. **JT** But Matthies Park is Park & Rec. **LPB** Someone told me this commission could not maintain it years ago, so Park and Rec took it on. After the tornado I think there was a lot of work needed and damage. I would highly encourage everyone to look on the website. I would likely say there will be many applications. I would think something like this would be a series of votes. **JT** I think step one is identify what would we like to do. **LW** How about Naugatuck Greenway? **LPB** I believe there is already a plan for that. **Discussion Followed about Greenways and multiple locations** **LPB** So we should circle back to identify. **JT** I think individually come up with some ideas and throw them all together. **LW** I like the idea of connecting trails or to Naugatuck State Forest. **JT** If we do Lantern Ridge there's an area we can expand for parking. **LW** Could we build another trail head from Lantern Ridge on 42? **VS** At the end of Hockanum Glen there's an opening to a trail that will take you to Lantern Ridge. **JT** I see it now. (Referencing maps) **LPB** We had years ago people come and present years ago and they talked about Statewide Goals on Land Conservation – I think with this grant those are important things to tape into... I think the broader reach we have the more points we can get and this goes in HVA watershed. **VS** That could be someone we could bring in to help us how to word this for the grant. **LPB** So our to-dos are to get and share ideas what to use the money for.

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

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

d. **39 Acre Property:** No updates

e. **POCD Discussion:** **LPB** I went to the open house; it was really well done. I spoke to the gentleman that was leading it, I will say I was very disappointed there was nothing there about conservation. Years ago when the POCD was written the



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Conservation Commission was a part of it.

6. **New Business:**

a. **Trails Day** – **LPB** It is called National Trails Day and its run nationally from American Hiking Society (AHS) so its its own private nonprofit organization. Each State has some type of group that coordinates it for their state, in Connecticut CFPA (Connecticut Forest Parks Association) has been the CT Trails Day coordinator for ages and for such a small state we have the most trails day events for many years. **JT** I think we need to decide between doing Acre 39 or do both locations, I don't know how its going to work. **LPB** Its always the first weekend of June. **JT** I'll let you guys know once I get the notification and send you a link. **LPB** I think we should do Acre 39 because its new and different. **JT** I love the loop. **VS** There's 4 of us that agree on Acre 39 so let's just do that.

7. **Petition from Commissioners:** None

8. **Executive Session:** Not Needed

9. **Adjournment:** **VS** made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM: **LW** seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Pastor
Clerk, Conservation Commission

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Clerked by Nicole Pastor
Meeting Date: 12/14/23