

## **ANDOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 AT 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM APPLICATION**

### **Minutes**

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Michael Palazzi  
Members present: Michael Palazzi, Hank Gruner, Maryann Gile. Alternates Gary Gile and Carrie Crompton were seated.

Chairman Palazzi asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Maryann requested that we add a discussion of the Sustainable CT program to new business (item 5e). Carrie asked that we add a discussion of “Sustainable Landscaping on Town Land” to new business (item 5f).

2. Maryann moved that we approve the minutes of August 25, 2020. Gary seconded. Minutes were approved 5/0/0.

Hank moved that we approve the minutes of the special Sept 1, 2020 meeting. Carrie seconded. Minutes were approved 5/0/0.

3. Public speak. Dianne Grenier was present as an auditor, but did not speak.
4. Old business
  - a. C.A.R.T. update: Mike reports that the program is running smoothly with three regular groups participating.
  - b. New member update: There has been no expression of interest in the past month.
  - c. Gravel extraction: Hank reported that the project is moving forward by fits and starts, not according to a formal schedule. This makes it challenging to monitor. The silt fence is compromised in a spot close to a wetland area in the Hop River floodplain. Hank will talk with Joe Wagner (wetlands agent) about whether this needs to be repaired.
  - d. IWIC and P&Z update: Hank has recently been asked to review applications and provide input about the possible impacts of development on wetlands. Some of these projects have no immediate impact from the proposed development activities; however, they may have conservation related issues beyond the scope of IWWC purview. Hank suggested a meeting between the chairman of IWWC, the chair of P&Z, and himself to develop a formula for providing guidance on best land management practices following permitting. All agreed that this was a good idea.
5. New business

- a. Mowing on town owned land: We reviewed the minutes of the last BOS meeting (September 14), in which the BOS expressed enthusiasm for the proposal we had submitted for reduced mowing.
  - b. Acceptance of donated parcels: At the September 14 meeting, the BOS accepted the offer of the Northern CT Land Trust parcels (8.54 acres) and the Talbot parcel (8.84 acres) in the Western Corridor. Mike has informed Don Smith of the Land Trust and Tom Talbot of this decision. The decision will be forwarded to P&Z for an 8-24 approval. The next step will be a town meeting to accept the parcels.
  - c. Land sale on Merritt Valley Road: At this point, there is no deal to purchase the land using open space funding.
  - d. Sustainable CT: Maryann will be representing our town and the Andover Conservation Commission in the Sustainable CT program. An overview of the program, from the [sustainablect.org](http://sustainablect.org) website, is copied below.
  - e. Sustainable landscaping: Carrie presented two proposals for areas along the Rail Trail under the rubric “The Pollinator Project.” One plan is for a Monarch butterfly waystation; the other is for a sustainable mowing/planting plan for the bank across from the post office. Hank moved to accept both proposals; Gary seconded. Motion passed 5/0/0. Carrie will send these proposals to Amanda Gibson to be posted on the web page for the Conservation Commission.
6. Next meeting: October 27, 2020
  7. Adjournment: Hank moved we adjourn at 8:10. Carrie seconded. Approved 5/0/0.

## Overview

[Sustainable CT is a voluntary certification program](#) to recognize thriving and resilient Connecticut municipalities. An independently funded, grassroots, municipal effort, Sustainable CT provides a wide-ranging menu of [best practices](#). Municipalities choose Sustainable CT actions, implement them, and earn points toward [certification](#).

Sustainable CT also provides opportunities for [grant funding](#) to help communities promote economic well-being and enhance equity, all while respecting the finite capacity of the natural environment. The program is designed to support all Connecticut municipalities, regardless of size, geography or resources. Sustainable CT empowers municipalities to create [high collective impact](#) for current and future residents.