

## ANDOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2023

**Members Present:** Maryann Gile (Chair), Evan Aguirre, Hank Gruner, Catherine Shea, **Alternates:** Cary Crompton, Gary Gile

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the Chair
2. **Public speak:** None
3. **Additions/deletions to the agenda:** the two items under new business were moved to old business for discussion. Advisory letter for the timber harvest under the IWWC update, and Chapter 8 POCD format under natural resource planning
4. **Approval of the October meeting minutes:** Cathy motioned to approve and Maryann seconded
5. **Old business:**
  - a. C.A.R.T update: No updates
  - b. IWWC/P&Z Update: Hank attended the November IWWC meeting where an application for a timber harvest at a parcel located on Bunker Hill Road was received. Several wetland crossings are planned, and results of our town-wide vernal pool survey indicate the presence of vernal pools, which was confirmed during a site walk on November 18. An advisory letter promoting best forestry management practices for vernal pools/wetlands was drafted for submission to the IWWC at their December meeting.
  - c. Sustainable CT Update: The committee met in October and work continues focused on spring activities. The November meeting has been cancelled.
  - d. Treasurer's Report: No updates regarding the budget. Maryann discussed the need for allowing two-weeks lead time for processing purchases or conference registrations. She also noted the option that members can be reimbursed if they cover the expense.
  - e. Natural Resource and Open Space Inventory (NROI) Planning: Hank shared a document compiling the process and work to date on the NROI. Members discussed the importance of putting together a clear and compelling narrative for the plan of conservation and development revision. Planning for recommendations to address the priorities identified during the NROI and mapping will begin in January.
  - f. Annual Report: Maryann shared a draft report. Several minor edits were made and the report was finalized.
  - g. CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions (CACIWC) annual conference update: 250 representatives from conservation and inland wetland commissions across the state attended. Hank presented a session utilizing Andover's natural resource and open space inventory as an example of the role that conservation commissions can play in conservation planning for wildlife and their habitats.
  - h. Joshua's Trust parcel Skinner Hill Road: Bill Penn, steward for the parcel, contacted Hank and informed him that a site-walk to review potential trail locations may be scheduled. Hank will follow-up with Bill on the status.
6. **Next Meeting: December 26, 2023,** via Zoom
7. **Adjournment 8:45 pm** – Carrie made a motion to adjourn and Cathy seconded.