

Agenda
Tolland Conservation Commission
Zoom Remote Meeting
Thursday, August 10, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Seating of Alternate(s)**
- 4. Public Comments**
- 5. Additions/Changes to Agenda**
- 6. New Business – No new business to discuss**
- 7. Old Business**
 - 7.1. Photo contest status
 - 7.2. Review list of outside organization liaisons
- 8. Reports from Head Steward and Subcommittees**
 - 8.1. Conservation Corp (Bob Rubino): Updates on planning for spring and summer projects/initiatives
 - 8.2. Management Plans (Gene, Jim): Review and vote on Nedwied Management Plan
 - 8.3. Communication and Education (**Jane**): Update on women’s hike series and/or other initiatives
 - 8.4. Property Boundaries and Trail Mapping (**Adam**): No changes reported
 - 8.5. Town Owned Property Evaluations (Gene, Jim): No new properties brought before TCC since last mtg
 - 8.6. Wanat Property Design Implementation (**Peggy, Jane**): Update on pollinator garden.
 - 8.7. Grant Writing and Fund Raising (Peggy, **Jim**): Status of appraisal of Tolland Marsh Property and grant application to OSWA (CT DEEP)
- 9. Reports/Information from Other Organizations**
- 10. Staff Updates (David Corcoran)**
- 11. Items for Next Meeting**
- 12. Announcements**
- 13. Approve Minutes – July 13, 2023 Regular Meeting**
- 14. Adjournment**

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Tolland Conservation Commission (TCC)

Meeting minutes

13 July 2023 at 7:02 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom

1. Call to order 7:02 p.m.

2. Roll call

TCC Members: J. Hutton (Chairman), E. Koss, S. McKown, A. Grossman, J. Simao

TCC Alternates: L. A. Swan, P. Webbe

Public: D. Corcoran (Town Planner)

3. Seating alternates

Quorum present.

4. Public comments

There were none.

5. Additions and changes to agenda

J. Hutton added Item 7.2 – Parciak Stewardship Plan.

6. New business

- a. There was none.

7. Old business

7.1. 2023 Photo/Poetry Contest

Discussion on the deadline for the photo/poetry contest was held. It was decided that if the photo/poetry information has already been posted, the submission date will remain 8/1/2023. If the photo/poetry information has not been posted then to allot more time, the submission date will be revised to 9/30/23. Winners will be decided at the October meeting and a 2nd meeting will be held in October to present awards. David Corcoran reported the gift cards have been purchased.

7.2 Parciak Stewardship Plan

The commission reviewed an email from Mark Summers expressing concern for the plan to log the Parciak property. A discussion on industrial logging versus selective harvesting was held. Also, the stewardship plan and background was discussed. It was stated that when deciding the stewardship plan for this area, the commission did an evaluation and with the help of a professional consulting forester decided that selective harvesting is the best approach for the health of the forest and long-term sustainability. It was noted that the public may not understand the difference between industrial logging and the selective harvesting that will be used at Parciak. To help with concerns, J. Hutton will schedule a tour in September of the area with commissioners, forester/consultant, and public that are interested in attending.

8. Reports from Head Steward and subcommittees

8.1 Conservation Corp

There was no report.

8.2 Management plans

J. Hutton stated that The Nedwied Management Plan is ready for review. He is doing a first review and then will send it out to all commissioners for approval.

8.3 Communication and education

J. Simao reported 6 women attended the last women's hike. She also reported that the display case at the library will be completed on 8/1/2023 and thanked P. Webber for her poster and R. McCann for the beaver stumps. J. Simao is also looking for ideas for the fall scare crow contest. A slide show documenting the Grade 6 project was viewed. Also, it was reported that the Joshua Trust will be holding Wednesday nature walks at 8 AM. The walks are about 2 miles long and very informative.

8.4 Property boundaries and trail mapping

There was no discussion on this topic.

8.5 Town-owned property evaluations

J. Hutton reported that the development behind Big Y is moving along. D. Corcoran reported that everything is going according to plan. Environmental scientists have been providing reports quarterly. D. Corcoran will email the commissioners the report.

8.6 Wanat property design implementation

P. Webbe stated that the new plants are growing and need to be thinned out. J. Hutton recommended that 2 of the Grey Bush Dogwoods in the pollinator garden could be moved either between the labyrinth and parking lot or next to the bench that is south of the labyrinth. J. Hutton will check with R. McCann and B. Rubino if this will interfere with the farmer cutting the grass at Wanat.

8.7 Grant writing and fundraising

There was no discussion on this topic.

9. Reports and information from other organizations:

E. Koss stated that Bolten Lake Watershed Alliance has approved bylaws to organize their group more formally. This helps when applying for grants.

10. Staff updates

D. Corcoran stated that the Inland/Wetlands and Water Courses Commission (IWWC) will hold a hearing in August on the adoption of the Wetlands Special Concern Plan. The IWWC is considering increasing the Upland Review Area for certain sensitive areas including the wetlands in the vicinity of the White Cedar Swamp found just north and east of Upper Bolton Lake in Tolland.

11. Items for next meeting

There were none.

12. Announcements

J. Hutton stated that a Linden tree was purchased and planted at Sage Meadow and looks good.

13. Approval of previous minutes

A motion was made by E. Koss; P. Webbe 2nd to accept the minutes of 8-June 2023. The motion was unanimously approved.

14. Adjournment

A motion was made by E. Koss; P. Webbe 2nd to adjourn meeting at 7:56 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Ann Swan
Secretary, Tolland Conservation Commission