

Agenda
Tolland Conservation Commission
Zoom Remote Meeting
Thursday, September 14, 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

- 6.1. Kate Lane storm drains – Henderson’s Brook between Ellen Dr. and Woodhenge Dr.
- 6.2. Motor bikes on Knofla North trails – concerned resident correspondence
- 6.3. Conservation Area night use notifications (Resident Trooper? Neighbors?)
- 6.4. Kollar Wildlife Management Area tour on Saturday Oct. 7 from 9 to 11 a.m. – Jane Seymour

7. Old Business

- 7.1. Photo/Poetry Contest status
- 7.2. Parciak Forest Management Plan implementation status (work started 9/5/23)
- 7.3. Scare Crows on the Green – will TCC have an entry?

8. Reports from Head Steward and Subcommittees

- 8.1. Conservation Corp (**Bob Rubino**): update on recent projects and planned fall projects
- 8.2. Management Plans (Gene, **Jim**): review and potentially approve Mgmt Plan for
- 8.3. Communication and Education (**Jane**): update on recent activities and upcoming events
- 8.4. Property Boundaries and Trail Mapping (Adam): updates, as needed
- 8.5. Town Owned Property Evaluations (Gene, **Jim**): Opportunity with Goose Lane property
- 8.6. Wanat Property Design Implementation (Peggy, Jane): Bridge construction and trail erosion (discuss under 8.1)
- 8.7. Grant Writing and Fund Raising (Peggy, **Jim**): Status of Tolland Marsh OSWA Grant, discuss USDA Forestry Grant opportunity.

9. Reports/Information from Other Organizations

10. Staff Updates (David Corcoran)

11. Items for Next Meeting

12. Announcements

- 12.1. UConn Native Plants & Pollinators Conference, Nov. 2 (8:45 am to 3:30 pm), at UConn
- 12.2. CIPWG General Meeting, Oct. 11 (10 am to 12 noon), Tolland County Extension Center at TAC

13. Approve Minutes – August 10, 2023 Regular Meeting

14. Adjournment

To join the Zoom meeting, either click:

<https://zoom.us/j/4325402030?pwd=NG43ZHcyOXBQOGJldzZVTmQxNmhZZz09>

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,4325402030#,,, *444555#

Or call: 1-646-876-9923 and input:

Meeting ID: 432 540 2030

Passcode: 444555

Tolland Conservation Commission (TCC)

Meeting minutes

10 August 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom

1. Call to order 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll call

TCC Members: J. Hutton (Chairman), E. Koss, A. Grossman, J. Simao, B. Rubino, K. Ackerman, B. Kowal

TCC Alternates: L. A. Swan

Public: None

3. Seating alternates

Quorum present.

4. Public comments

There were none.

5. Additions and changes to agenda

J. Hutton added Item 7.3 – Master Forester Program.

6. New business

There was none.

7. Old business

7.1. 2023 Photo/Poetry Contest

J. Hutton reported that a couple of entries have been received for the photo/poetry contest (2 for the nature landscape, 2 poems and 1 people on the trail). 0 entries have been received for the youth category.

7.2 Review list of outside organization liaisons

J. Hutton discussed the current assignments of commission members as liaisons to outside organizations. Two organizations had no liaisons. J. Hutton asked L. Swan and K. Ackerman if they were interested in being liaisons for these organizations and both agreed. The current assignments are listed below:

Conservation Oriented Organizations Monitored by the Conservation Commission 2023

1. Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance: Gene Koss
2. Joshua's Trust: Peggy Webbe
3. Northern CT Land Trust (NCLT): Shawn McKown
4. Tolland Agricultural Commission: Jim Hutton
5. UConn: Jim Hutton
6. CT Assoc. of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC): Lee Ann Swan
7. CT Forest & Parks Association: Kylie Ackerman
8. American Chestnut Foundation: Bill Kowal
9. Audubon Society Connecticut: Jane Simao
10. CIPWG-CT Invasive Plants Working Group: Adam Grossman

7.3 Master Forester Program

B. Rubino reported on the Master Forester Program. The program is similar to the Master Gardner Program but focuses on forestry. The training is a year of online and hands on study.

The cost is \$400. A discussion followed on the benefits of having a commissioner with these credentials. The benefits include improvement in communications with foresters and residents as well as having a commissioner available to provide expertise to the commission when making decisions. B. Rubino stated he was interested in attending this program. B. Rubino stated he would prepare a short 30-minute presentation on highlights and further actions based on the training after the year of training. A motion was made by E. Koss and 2nd by K. Acherman to fund Bob Rubino attendance to the Master Forester Program. The motion was approved.

8. Reports from Head Steward and subcommittees

8.1 Conservation Corp

- **Updates on planning for fall projects/initiatives**

B. Rubino reported that due to the excessive rain in July there was damage at the Shafran property. The area at the footbridge has been eroded and the trail needs to be rerouted. Also, the large bridge and the area at the west end of the 2nd pond has been damaged. This damage cannot be repaired. The bridge will be disassembled, and the material repurposed. If the commissioners see any other damages let him know.

- **Cadence of reporting to Town of Tolland**

B. Rubino stated that the commission should start reporting activity to the Town of Tolland more often. This should include how much money the commission has spent and how it benefits the community.

- **Request permit to use the Wanat Area August 11, 2023**

B. Rubino asked for a permit to use the Wanat Area on the night of August 11th, 2023, 9 PM to 5 AM to hold a public viewing of the Perseid meteor shower. All agreed to approve the permit. B. Rubino will post on Facebook and Web page.

8.2 Management plans

J. Hutton stated that The Nedwied Management Plan is ready for approval. The changes were reviewed. A motion was made by E. Koss to adopt the revised Nedwied Management Plan. It was 2nd by B. Kowal and unanimously approved. J. Simao stated that there is maintenance work that needs to be done at the Nedwied area. There is one large tree that blocks the trail and another top of a tree hanging over the trail. B. Rubino stated he will try to get out to the area to take care of these items.

8.3 Communication and education

J. Simao reported 7 women attended the last women's hike at the Parciak area. The sign at Quartz Rock is unreadable and needs to be replaced. B. Rubino stated that this will be added to the list of jobs that need to be done in the fall. He will wait until after the forestry work is complete. J. Simao also reported the Conservation Commission display at the Tolland library is up through the month of August.

8.4 Property boundaries and trail mapping

There was no discussion on this topic.

8.5 Town-owned property evaluations

Appraisal activity was reported by A. Grossman at the Tolland Marsh area. J. Hutton stated that D. Corcoran was absent but left in a note that the Town of Tolland is still interested in the Tolland Marsh and is actively working on an Oswall Grant proposal to purchase the land.

8.6 Wanat property design implementation

- B. Rubino reported that at the Wanet Property, more gravel and water bars have been put on the trail after the original gravel was washed away. The last bench has been installed and B. Rubino believes this completes phase 2. Also, he knows of a place to move the 2 Grey Bush Dogwood trees.
- J. Simao stated that tags or signs should be considered to identify the shrubs and trees in the Wanat property. She stated that P. Webbe was looking into this but was unsure of the status.

- B. Rubino stated that the labyrinth at the Walnut Conservation Area was covered in crab grass which he has weeded. The 60' by 60' parking lot is also covered with weeds. He is looking for permission from the commission to use an herbicide on the parking area. The herbicide will only be sprayed on grass in the gravel area. A detailed discussion was held, and it was decided that alternatives to the use of herbicide were impractical. A motion was made by E. Koss to cautiously use an herbicide on the parking lot to eradicate the weeds at the Walnut Conservation Area. A. Grossman 2nd and the motion was approved.

8.7 Grant writing and fundraising

See Section 8.5.

9. Reports and information from other organizations:

- J. Hutton reported that an all-day seminar will be held at UConn, focusing on Native Plant and Pollinators on November 2, 2023. Registration is \$65. 1 or 2 commissioners should go. J. Simao and E. Koss both expressed interests. J. Hutton will investigate if there is budget to fund this activity with D. Corcoran.
- E. Koss reported that the Bolton Lake Conservation Alliance has adopted new by-laws and formalized the alliance. They have been working with the Northern CT land trust. The Tolland Inland and Wetland Commission continues to review a management plan for around lakes. The plan is evolving and a public hearing in 1 to 2 months will be scheduled. E. Koss will bring this back to the commission when it is available.

10. Staff updates

There were none.

11. Items for next meeting

Additional management plans for review and ideas for the scarecrow contest.

12. Announcements

There were none.

13. Approval of previous minutes

A motion was made by E. Koss; A. Grossman 2nd to accept the minutes of 13 July 2023. The motion was approved with one abstain from K. Ackerman as she was not at the last meeting.

14. Adjournment

A motion was made by B. Kowal, K. Ackerman 2nd to adjourn meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Ann Swan
Secretary, Tolland Conservation Commission