

**Agenda**  
**Tolland Conservation Commission**  
**Zoom Remote Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

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- 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. Photo & Poetry contest submissions review, schedule (**David, Jim**)
  - 6.2. Kollar Wildlife Management Area visit summary (**Jim**)
- 7. Old Business**
  - 7.1. Parciak Forest Management Plan update (**Jim**)
- 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**): Nothing new
  - 8.6. Wanat Property Design Implementation (Peggy, Jane): Status of erosion control matting (**Bob R.**)
  - 8.7. Grant Writing and Fund Raising (Peggy, **Jim**): Status of Tolland Marsh OSWA Grant.
- 9. Reports/Information from Other Organizations**
- 10. Staff Updates (David Corcoran)**
- 11. Items for Next Meeting**
- 12. Announcements**
- 13. Approve Minutes – September 14, 2023 Regular Meeting**
- 14. Adjournment**

To join the Zoom meeting, either click:

<https://zoom.us/j/4325402030?pwd=NG43ZHcyOXBOOGJldzZVTmQxNmhZZz09>

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

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

Meeting ID: 432 540 2030

Passcode: 444555

# 2023 Photo & Poetry Contest

## Submissions

# People Photography on the Tolland Trails



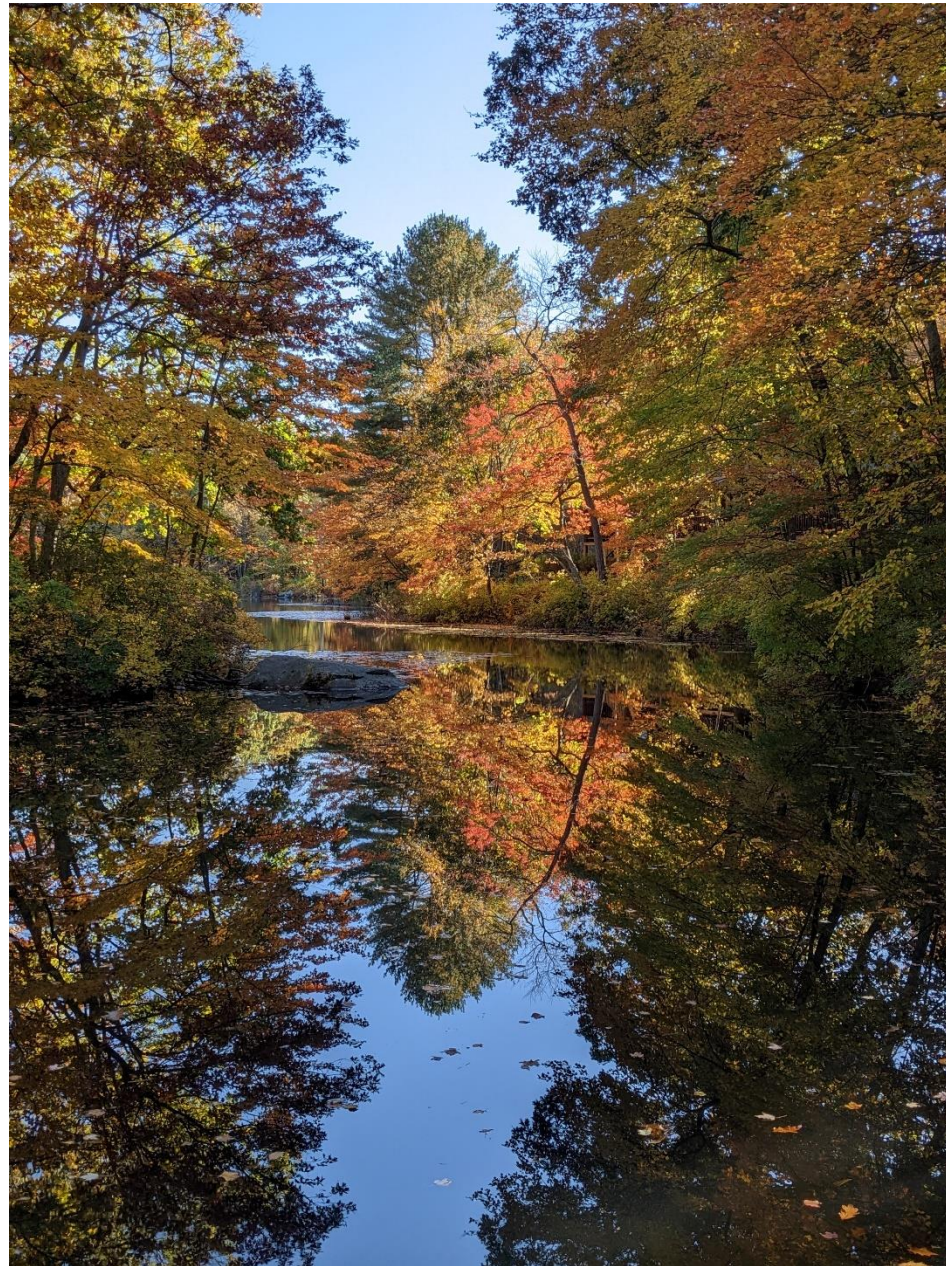
Entry #3 "Twins on the Trail" – Beth Schultz



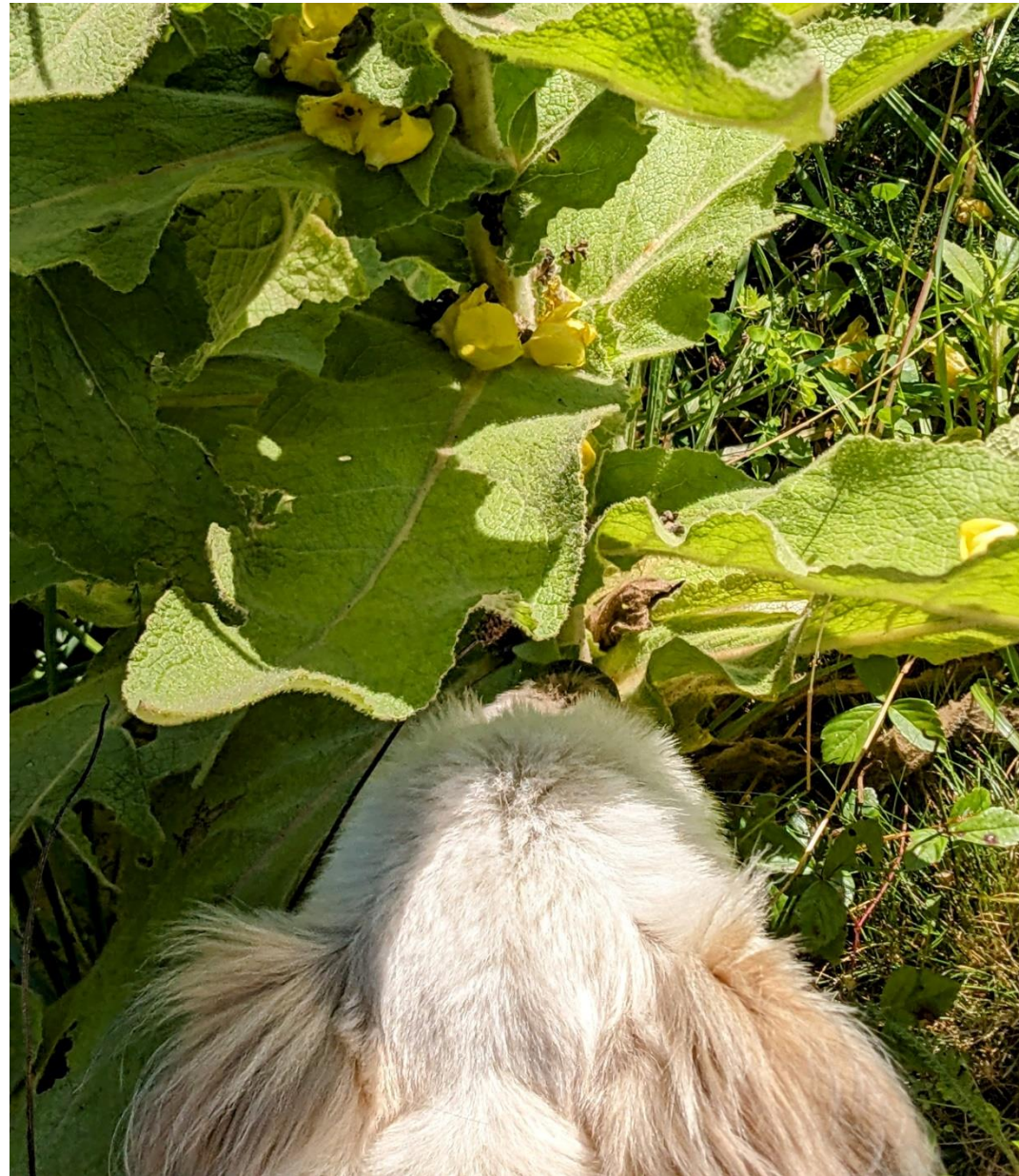
Entry # 6 “Hiker in the Trees” – Miranda Simao



Entry #7 "Get Lost" – Chris Percy



Entry #9 “Friends Gateway to Powell Pond” – Ronald Johnson



Entry #12 "Sniffing at Crandalls" – Debbie Becker



# Natural Landscape Photography on the Tolland Trails



Entry #1 “Fungi” – Michele Vizina



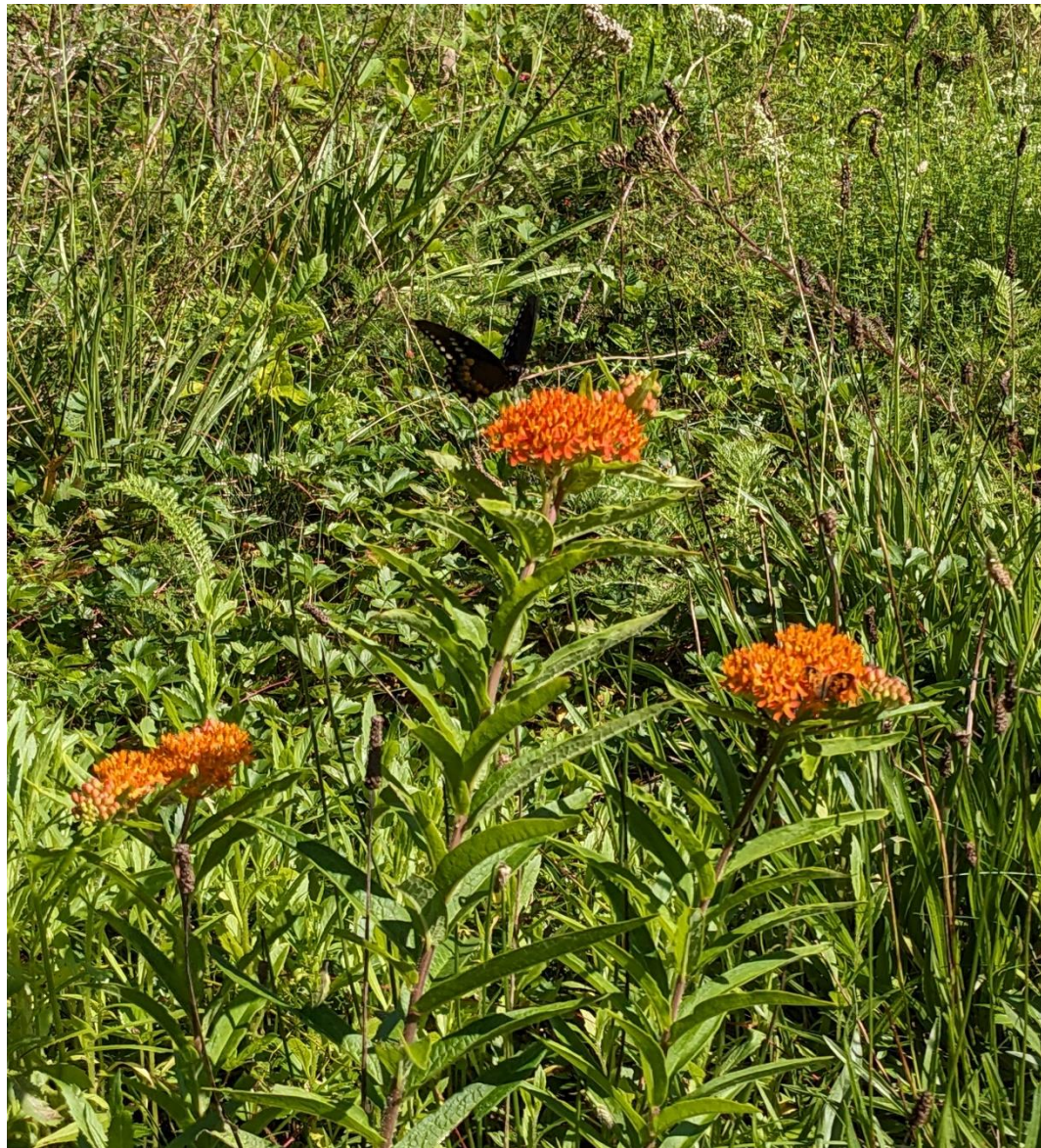
Entry #1 “Mountain Laurel” – Michele Vezina



Entry #10 "Autumn Peeks in" – Marian Murphy



Entry #11 "Rocks of Time" – Marian Murphy



Entry #13 “Stopping by Crandalls’ Meadow” – Deborah Becker



Entry #14 “The Buzz” – Stan Tetrault



Entry #14 "Backlit Flower" – Stan Tetrault



# Poetry on Tolland Trails

Summer's Mysteries- Age 16  
By Lenah Hellerich

Eastern winds ebbing and flowing-  
whispering white stolen memories  
I once dreamt, ventured back when  
youth still wore my small shoes  
like a child in bright blue rain boots.

Dragging soggy prints against  
the morning dew sprinkled  
through the narrow throat  
of that trail I once touched.

Gently exhaling deep,  
humid swooning sighs  
in a contempt of hazy jealousy.

The fog uplifted into heaven's brilliance,  
left to the stained pink and blue  
skies, cotton candy tasted by the  
early rise of weary clouds.  
A breathless summer breeze  
caressing the musty evergreen  
tree's nimble arms,  
dancing in sync,  
waving, saying  
Hello.

A woven inflamed rubble stained  
path, no one around,  
haphazardly strewn gravel  
imprinted with a sense of purpose-  
cherished by tiny steps  
and then the next that followed  
lightly looking up to its God,  
aware the trees grasped thin power.

Leaves painted in the glimmering  
sun's shimmering golden dress,  
floating gracefully in the wispy,  
white, blaring streaks' souls.

My soles gently embrace each  
smooth, sanded rocky stoop  
to the peak of enchanting heights.

Sharply engraved lines crept, an  
artist's delicate inscription of hills  
cascading in the vast expanse like  
an icy churning waterfall. An orange  
dome cresting the waking horizon,  
boldly blinking back igniting shards  
of fiery passion  
Upwards.

Pastel shades of pink and white  
speckles fluttering about,  
carried bravely by the wind's  
tender touch. Mountain laurels  
blossoming a fragrance of  
melancholic beauty.

Knowing, whispering faintly,  
*I'll eventually have to go.*

# Autumn Walk At Tobiasson Forest

June L. Mita

Marvel at the yellow woods,  
Let me be near to your nature's heart.  
Inspired, we walk even higher  
Along an enchanted rock strewn path.  
Sol's warmth assured we hear  
A twittering bird's song.  
Soft air clings, breath of life,  
And freely we walk  
As God's voice drifts in to our quiet thoughts.

Passing of deer and time  
Have hewn this golden path.  
Oak roots rise in sublime  
Disarray along the unsteady ground.  
We are children again,  
Hands clasped with Autumn love.  
A chest filled with pieces of eight  
We congregate with the falling leaves  
That cling to our hair and crunch under our feet.

We leave behind the motors and rush  
And embrace our silent company  
In the midst of this golden afternoon,  
Free to any who seek to be  
Dancing with beeches and flitting chickadees.  
Riches in rings and artifacts,  
Luxuries and desires of the modern world  
Cannot compare to nature's gold.  
The purpling asters and goldenrod  
Dripping with bees and their nectar,  
Put hard gold coins to shame.

## **A Simple Recipe For Trail Travel**

Start with a step, any path will do  
Say Hello to yourself and mean it  
Add your willingness to BE ALL THAT IS  
Immersing yourself in the natural splendor  
See your body as the center of all that exists around you  
Let rise any thoughts or feelings but do not stir!  
Add a few more steps and a dash of self-kindness  
Taste and add your own seasonings of uniqueness,  
If bitter, remove self-pity and add self-forgiveness  
If sour, remove self-loathing and add self-love;  
(CAUTION: Tiny amounts sweeten the whole being)  
Walk further inward, kneading with outrageous humor  
If humor hard to find, substitute with a thought of Joy  
If Joy in short supply, add Gratefulness in larger quantity  
Blend until smooth; removing all lumps, releasing all bumps  
Top with a few breaths, add a few more steps  
Then pour all into nature's readiness to enjoy.

BAKE: In The Sun Of A New Day

submitted by Hollie Barnas

## Trees

Sky on water is like a mirrored  
King unraveling silk. Shenipsit lake,  
Feather from time's wing.  
The night has  
Rooms for winds that sleep.  
Woodpecker hotel tree keeps it's  
Guests. Do prayers return  
To their source in which mouth do they rest.  
vacant rooms  
Invite remorse on a starless  
Night. Woodpeckers drill, are they  
Carpenters for a provisional  
Ark. Day's light  
Spilling eye. Walkers absorb  
Sights, mountain Laurel of  
Luce conservation area, knofla  
Water lilies, Willimantic river tempts  
Walkers to deliver prayers for  
It's conservation, chance of  
Birds passing over the  
Moons reflection on  
Waters being caught  
Like the dreams of a king  
In the mirror.  
Submitted by Barry Carter

# Youth Photography

**No submissions**

# Tolland Conservation Commission (TCC)

Meeting minutes

14 September 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom

**1. Call to order** 7:01 p.m.

**2. Roll call**

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

TCC Alternates: None attended.

Public: B. Rubino (Head Steward), D. Corcoran (Director of Planning), Jamila Y. (Journal Inquirer reporter)

**3. Seating alternates**

Quorum present. No alternates seated.

**4. Public comments**

There were none.

**5. Additions and changes to agenda**

No additions to the agenda.

**6. New business**

**6.1 Kate Lane Storm Drains:** There was discussion on doggie “poop bags” being tossed down storm drains and ending up in a local stream. E. Koss encouraged additional public education by signage and on-line notices. Others agreed additional education is needed. A station with free bags was discussed but was not voted on due to extra maintenance requirements/costs.

**6.2 Motor Bike Trespass:** J. Hutton indicated motor bikes have been observed on the Knofla North property and a neighbor reported this to the Commission. The Commissioners agreed to keep an eye out for evidence of more motor bike trespassing.

**6.3 Night Use Permits:** There was discussion on who to notify when a night use permit is received. The Commission agreed that the Resident State Trooper/State Police Dispatch will be notified as well as Tolland Emergency Services. D. Corcoran indicated the Planning Dept will do the notification by email.

**6.4 Kollar Mgmt Area Tour:** J. Hutton reminded the Commission that a tour of the Kollar Management Area in eastern most Tolland will be lead by Jane Seymour (State DEEP Wildlife Biologist) on October 7 from 9 to 11 am. The public is welcome to attend.

**7. Old business**

**7.1. 2023 Photo/Poetry Contest**

D. Corcoran indicated he would post an additional notice of the Sept 30 deadline on the TCC website and J. Simao indicated she would post reminders on social media. Entries to date are down from previous years.

**7.2 Parciak Forest Management Plan**

J. Hutton noted tree harvest on the Parciak property has begun. Commissioners are encouraged to visit to view the progress. B. Rubino noted that he spoke with the loggers and they told him that data now shows log extraction with “skidder” equipment results in faster and better reforestation than with “forwarder” equipment. The cause appears to be the skidder in effect tills the soil and buries acorns and other seeds that then have a better chance to germinate and grow. This was interesting and unexpected information to most Commissioners. There was discussion on making the log staging area on Bald Hill Road (next to current trail head) into a



parking area when forest harvest is complete. Since gravel has already been laid down at this location, it is a good candidate for a small parking area (approx. 3 to 5 cars).

### **7.3 Tolland Green Scare Crow Contest**

J. Simao (will be away but help with ideas), K. Ackerman, and A. Grossman agreed to work on an entry for the Tolland Green Scare Crow Contest. There was discussion on what the entry might look like. The three volunteers agreed to meet and come up with a plan to complete the entry. B. Rubino agreed to ask the Conservation Corp volunteers if any are interested in helping with the Scare Crow entry for the Conservation Commission/Corp.

## **8. Reports from Head Steward and subcommittees**

### **8.1 Conservation Corp**

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

B. Rubino reported that 5 fall trail days are planned by the Corp. The trail days will be at Shafran (bridges), Becker (fern planting and bride), Wanat (bridge, silo trail, erosion mats discussion), Knofla South (dam work), and Luce (fix bridge wash out). B. Rubino indicated Mark Rudy at Tolland Schools called him and they are planning another school and TCC educational event. The event will include a star party and sun dial study on October 20. There was discussion on notifying neighbors of the star party. A. Grossman volunteered to help with this project. Connections with Tolland Schools continues to grow due to B. Rubino's efforts and the Commission expressed their gratitude for his efforts.

### **8.2 Management plans**

J. Hutton stated that no new plan updates are ready for review but there will likely be one or more ready for the October Commission meeting.

### **8.3 Communication and education**

J. Simao reported several women have expressed interest in a women's hike advertised for this coming weekend. J. Simao noted that the Tolland Library display on Conservation is still up and will be for another week or more. J. Simao noted that she has attended several Joshua's Trust hikes recently and they are very interesting and informative. She encouraged others to attend.

### **8.4 Property boundaries and trail mapping**

There was no discussion on this topic.

### **8.5 Town-owned property evaluations**

There was no discussion on this topic.

### **8.6 Wanat property design implementation**

- B. Rubino (see above) reported on upcoming Corp activities planned for Wanat.
- Gray Dogwood trees will be transplanted to the point where the trail enters the woods as it approaches the bridge. B. Rubino recommended the pollinator garden be expanded between its current location and the parking area to avoid taking any more of the field that the farmer mows and to leave intact the strip of grass between the labyrinth and the current garden. B. Rubino said he would coordinate the pollinator garden expansion with P. Webbe.

### **8.7 Grant writing and fundraising**

J. Hutton noted that the Planning Dept. continues to seek funding for the Tolland Marsh property through a State OSWA Grant. There was discussion on a approx. 25-acre property at the corner of Goose Lane and Anderson Road that is for sale and could provide very good access to the Tolland Marsh property, if the Marsh Property is obtained by the Town. Negotiations for this 25-acre property include several complicating factors including timing and available Town funds for open space.

## **9. Reports and information from other organizations:**

- K. Ackerman provided a list of interesting hikes being offered by the CT Forest and Parks Association. Commissioners were encouraged to attend one or more of these hikes by J. Hutton.
- E. Koss reported that the Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance (BLWCA) is meeting in September to review proposed changes to regulations for upland review areas and receive public comments on those draft regulations. E. Koss plans to attend the meeting. Comments from Commissioners on the draft regulations are welcome and should be forwarded to E. Koss.

**10. Staff updates**

There were none.

**11. Items for next meeting**

None indicated by the Commissioners.

**12. Announcements**

There were none.

**13. Approval of previous minutes**

A **motion was made** by E. Koss; J. Simao 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the minutes of 10 August 2023. The **motion was approved unanimously**.

**14. Adjournment**

A **motion was made** by E. Koss, A. Grossman 2<sup>nd</sup> to adjourn meeting at 8:19 p.m. The **motion was unanimously approved**.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Hutton  
Chair, Tolland Conservation Commission