

Agenda
Tolland Conservation Commission
Zoom Remote Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 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. 2024 Meeting Schedule review and approval

7. Old Business

7.1. Status of Parciak Forest Management Project and “naturalist’s brush pile viewing stand” (J. Hutton)

7.2. Investigation of USDA Forest Service Community Forest Program grant. (Due Jan 12, 2024) (J. Hutton)

7.3. Status of OSWA Grant for Tolland Marsh Property (D. Corcoran)

8. Reports from Head Steward and Subcommittees

8.1. Conservation Corp (Bob Rubino): Project updates.

8.2. Management Plans (Gene, Jim): No new plans to review.

8.3. Communication and Education (Jane): Recent activities updates.

8.4. Property Boundaries and Trail Mapping (Adam): No new issues.

8.5. Town Owned Property Evaluations (Gene, Jim): No new issues.

8.6. Wanat Property Design Implementation (Peggy, Jane): No new activities.

8.7. Grant Writing and Fund Raising (Jim): See Item 7.2

9. Reports/Information from Other Organizations

10. Staff Updates (David Corcoran)

11. Items for Next Meeting

12. Announcements

13. Approve Minutes – October 12, 2023 Regular Meeting and October 26, 2023 Special 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

The Town of Tolland is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer.

2024

Tolland Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Schedule

2nd Thursday Meeting Schedule

January	11
February	8
March	14
April	11
May	9
June	13
July	11
August	8
September	12
October	10
November	14
December	12

The Conservation Commission meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month. All meetings will remain via Zoom unless otherwise decided and advertised. In the event meetings are held in-person, the meetings for the 2nd Thursday will be in the 6th level Council Chambers, unless otherwise posted.

Potential Special Meeting Schedule

January	25
February	22
March	21*
April	25
May	23
June	27
July	25
August	22
September	26
October	24
November	No Meeting
December	No Meeting

In the case that there is a Special Meeting, the meeting will remain via Zoom unless otherwise decided and advertised. In the event meetings are held in person, the meetings will be in the 2nd level Conference Room B of the Hicks Memorial Municipal Center at 21 Tolland Green, unless otherwise posted/noted above.

Any party needing an accommodation should contact the Development Office at 860-871-3601.

Check the Town website for meeting cancellations or special meetings.

* Meeting is not held on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Tolland Conservation Commission (TCC)

Meeting minutes

12 October 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, J. Simao, K. Ackerman, S. McKown

TCC Alternates: L. A. Swan

Public: D. Corcoran

3. Seating of Alternate(s)

Quorum present.

4. Public Comments

There were none.

5. Additions/Changes to Agenda

There were none.

6. New Business

6.1. Photo & Poetry Contest

D. Corcoran reviewed the submissions for the Photo and Poetry contest (five in the people category, seven in the landscape category, zero in the youth category and 4 poems). A discussion was held if the photos needed to be taken in a Conservation Area to be a proper submission. It was decided that it would be acceptable. It was noted that one photo was in the wrong category. D. Corcoran will send a new email out after this is corrected. Next steps will be for the Commission members to review the entries and send the name of their top two entries in each category to D. Corcoran within a week. A runoff of the top entries will be held the following week. It was also suggested that next year a Nature Photo Workshop held on the trails may lead to more entrees.

6.2. Kollar Wildlife Management Area

A tour of the Kollar Wildlife Management Area was conducted by Jane Seymour (DEEP). J. Hutton summarized what was discussed. The tour focused on approaches for reforestation as well as flora and fauna of the area.

7. Old business

7.1. Parciak Forest Management Plan

J. Hutton stated that the work is underway. He has talked to the foresters and there are no complaints to date. It was stated that there should be better signage that this area is closed while the work is progressing. The building of blinds to observe animals and birds at this area was discussed. All agreed this was a good idea and it was suggested either the Conservation Commission or the Conservation Corps could help with this task.

8. Reports from Head Steward and Subcommittees

8.1 Conservation Corp

Skip until next meeting.

8.2. Management Plans

J. Simao reviewed the Palmer Kendall Mountain Management Plan. It was decided to add two item to the Management Plan, the clearing of the overlook area and the development of the trail to Crystal Peat. E. Koss discussed a drain problem and visibility problem to the parking lot at the Paulk Hill Management Area. It was

decided that the need for drainage will be added to the Paulk Hill Management Plan. E. Koss will call the Tolland Public Works about moving the material obscuring the visibility to the parking area.

8.3. Communication and Education

There was none.

8.4. Property Boundaries and Trail Mapping

There was none.

8.5. Town Owned Property Evaluations

There was none.

8.6. Wanat Property Design Implementation

There was none.

8.7. Grant Writing and Fund Raising

J. Hutton stated that the application for the State OSWA Grant for the Tolland Marsh Area has been submitted. The next steps are an appraisal and appraisal review. Easements to the land also need to be discussed.

9. Reports and information from Other Organizations

K. Ackerman stated that the CT Forest and Park Association will be holding an Autumn Tree Identification event and an Asian Invasive Earthworm event for those that are interested. E. Koss stated that the Bolten Lakes Conservation Association has been focusing on improving the habitat for the Atlantic White Cedar. An Atlantic White Cedar grove is in the southwest area of Tolland on Cedar Swamp Road. The Commissioners should consider taking a hike to see this area. This month the Tolland Inland/Wetland Commission has changed a regulation to create a new criterion for areas with plants and animals of special concern. This regulation adds a 200-foot upland review area to the Wetlands Regulations.

10. Staff Updates

D. Corcoran reported that the Field Stone Ridge activity is coming along nicely. Also, the 83-unit apartment complex off Anthony Road behind Head Liners is in foreclosure. The hope is that after the units have a new owner, construction will proceed.

11. Items for Next Meeting

Jim Hutton asked the commissioners to think about how to educate Tolland residents about the value of conservation and open spaces. It was noted that the Town Council and Town Manager seem to favor only adding conservation lands if they are unbuildable wetland areas and that any buildable lot should not be converted to conservation areas. Mr. Hutton noted that conservation areas are not a burden on Town services, and therefore are important to keeping Tolland taxes low while enhancing the quality of life in Tolland, as is stated in the Town's official Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). Mr. Hutton noted there is room for a balance of development and conservation areas in Tolland and more should be done to conserve additional lands.

12. Announcements

There were none.

13. Approve Previous Minutes

A motion was made by E. Koss; J. Simao 2nd to accept the minutes of 14 September 2023. The motion was approved with one abstain from L. Swan as she did not attend the last meeting.

14. Adjournment

A motion was made by E. Koss, 2nd by K. Ackerman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Ann Swan
Secretary, Tolland Conservation Commission

Tolland Conservation Commission (TCC)

Meeting minutes

26 October 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom

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

2. Roll call

TCC Members: J. Hutton (Chairman), E. Koss, J. Simao

TCC Alternates: L. A. Swan

Public: D. Corcoran, Ron Johnson, Chris Percy, Hollie Barnas

3. Seating of Alternate(s)

L. A. Swan was seated.

4. Public Comments

There were none.

5. New Business

5.1. 2003 Photo & Poetry Contest

The three winners of the Photo & Poetry Contest are Chris Percy, Ronald Johnson and Hollie Barnas. Each will receive a \$50 gift card for L.L. Bean. The winners can contact David Corcoran to receive their awards.

6. Old business

There was none.

7. Reports and information from Other Organizations

There were none.

8. Staff Updates

There were none.

9. Items for Next Meeting

There were none.

10. Announcements

There were none.

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by E. Koss, 2nd by J. Simao to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Swan

Secretary, Tolland Conservation Commission