

Agenda
Tolland Conservation Commission
Zoom Remote Meeting
Thursday, April 11, 2024, 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. Next property for timber harvest
 - 6.2. Earth Day plans
 - 6.3. 6th grade field stay at Becker
 - 6.4. Trail Connection at Shafran
- 7. Old Business**
 - 7.1. Bigfoot Event Follow Up
 - 7.2. Bodnar Property site walk
- 8. Reports from Head Steward and Subcommittees**
 - 8.1. Conservation Corp (Bob Rubino)
 - 8.2. Management Plans (Gene)
 - 8.3. Communication and Education (Jane)
 - 8.4. Property Boundaries and Trail Mapping (Adam)
 - 8.5. Town Owned Property Evaluations (Gene)
 - 8.6. Wanat Property Design Implementation (Peggy, Jane)
 - 8.7. Grant Writing and Fund Raising (Peggy)
- 9. Reports/Information from Other Organizations**
- 10. Staff Updates (David Corcoran)**
- 11. Items for Next Meeting**
- 12. Announcements**
- 13. Approve Minutes – March 14, 2024 Regular Meeting**
- 14. Adjournment**

To join the Zoom meeting, either click:

<https://zoom.us/j/4325402030?pwd=NG43ZHcyOXBQOOGJldzZVTmQxNmhZZz09>

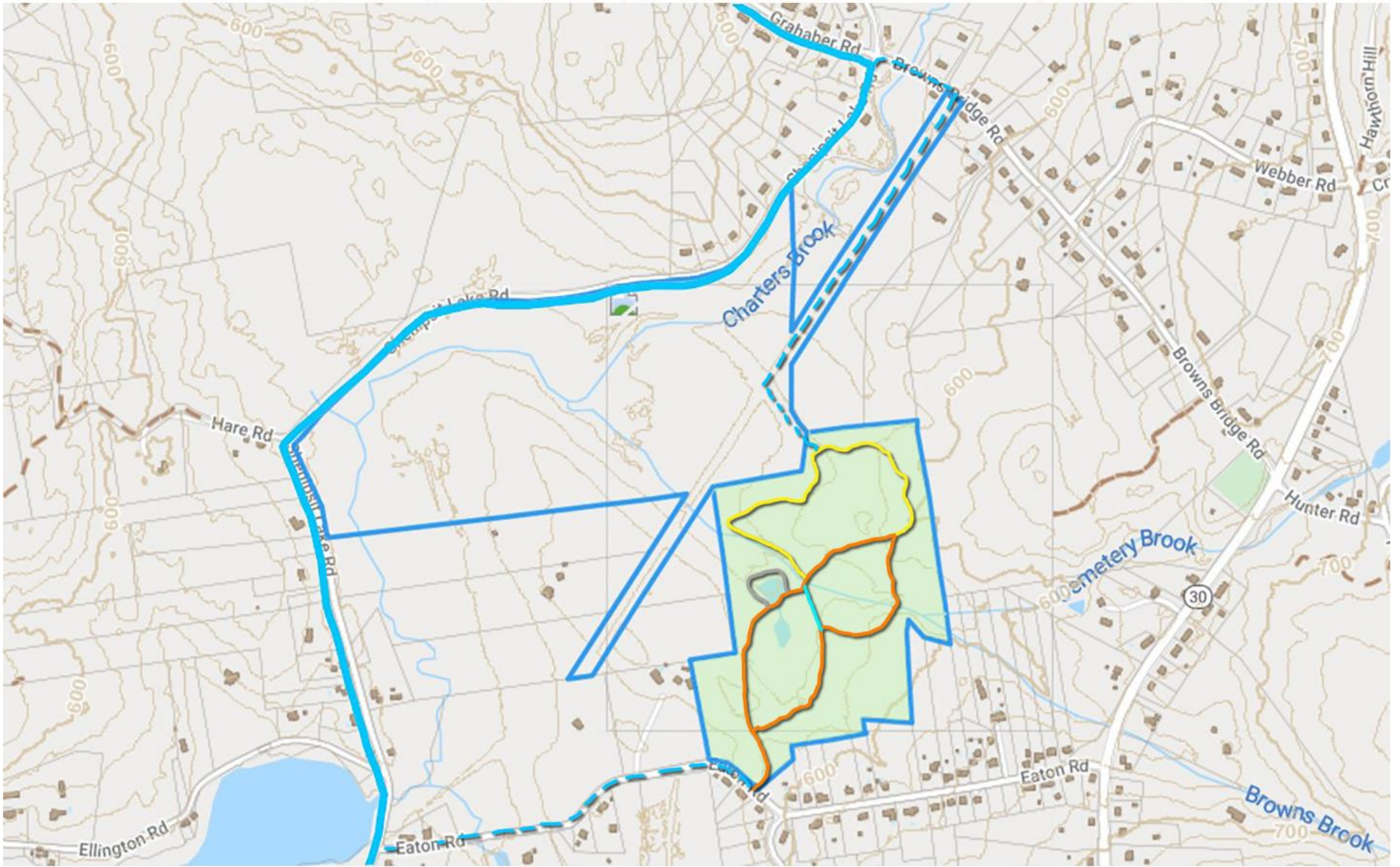
One tap mobile: +13017158592,,4325402030#,,,,*444555#

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

Meeting ID: 432 540 2030

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



Proposed Shafran & Blue Dot Trail connectivity

Tolland Conservation Commission (TCC)

Meeting minutes

14 March 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom

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

2. Roll call

TCC Members: J. Simao (Chairman), K. Ackerman, S. McGown, G. Koss, L. A. Swan, A. Grossman, B. Kowal
Public: D. Corcoran, B. Rubino, R. McCann, Jamila Young (Journal Inquirer)

3. Seating of Alternate(s)

None needed.

4. Public Comments

There were none.

5. Additions/Changes to Agenda

There were none.

6. New Business

6.1. Earth Day Activities

A discussion on whether the commission's Earth Day activity should be to pick up trash or to do drain stenciling was held.

- It was decided to do stenciling of storm drains. This would heighten awareness of the problem of dumping harmful liquids/materials into storm drains. These storm drains empty into the fresh water supply.
- K. Ackerman stated she will create a 1-to-2-minute video explaining how dumping liquids/materials into storm drains can harm the water supply.
- A discussion on what areas will be targeted for drain stenciling was held. It was decided to focus on Fox Ridge and Willie Circle areas due to the proximity to conservation areas and water sources.
- Stenciling will be done April 20th.

6.2 Big Foot Essay Results

Four essays were submitted for the Legend of the Tolland Big Foot writing contest.

- All four essays were excellent. As one winner could not be singled out, it was decided that all four contestants would be winners. Each will receive a Certified Big Foot Historian certificate and a free Big Foot Tracking license.
- B. Rubino stated he would also create a 3D carving of a Bigfoot for each winner.
- L. Swan stated she will provide larger print outs of the essays to be displayed at the event.

6.3 Big Foot/Unicorn Event

A discussion of the Big Foot/Unicorn Event was held.

- J. Simao reported that paying by credit/debit cards at the event will not be available.
- A. Grossman offered the use of his Venmo account for the event. He will accept payment using his Venmo account and then send the cash to the Town.
- It was decided that the event will require the guiding of participants to the Big foot/Unicorn areas. A. Grossman offered to create an Old Style map to be used by participants with locations of interest noted. He will bring prints with him to the event. Commissioners offered to supply other smaller items needed. These are noted on the Big Foot/Unicorn Tracking Event planning sheet.
- A workshop to make Unicorn/Big Foot treats and other needed items is scheduled for April 3rd at L. Swan's house.

- J. Simao will ask the High School Drama Department if there are any students that would like to be the Unicorn for the event. S. McKown stated he will ask his daughters if they know of any potential Unicorn actors.
- K. Ackerman stated she would investigate if the event flyer can be included on the superintendent's bulletin board.
- A discussion on trying to use a RSVP system for the event was held. It was decided that this would be too difficult.
- D. Corcoran will ask about using the Community Bulletin Board to advertise the event.

6.4 Discussion on Tolland Stage Road Property

A correspondence from the CT Water Authority was received by D. Corcordan asking if there was any interest in developing an area on Tolland Stage Road into a park.

- There was a discussion on who owns the property. D. Corcordan stated he would investigate.
- B. Rubino stated he believed the property under discussion was about 4/10th of an acre. He suggested that we use it as an opportunity to educate the public about native species by creating a native species pollinator garden.

7. Old business

There was none.

8. Reports from Head Steward and Subcommittees

8.1 Conservation Corp

- R. McCann updated the Commission on the tree harvesting at Parciak conservation area. The trail clean-up and seeding is done. The area remains very muddy.
- R. McCann stated that the Tolland Conservation Commission and Corps Potluck dinner will be held March 22 at 5:30 PM at the Crandall Lodge. Frank Servo will be the speaker. The Spring Trail days Agenda will also be discussed.
- Discussion on the next conservation area to be worked was held. Campbell was suggested.

8.2. Management Plans

None.

8.3. Communication and Education

- J. Simao stated that it has been reported that there is a large red dog walking off leash in several conservation areas. This dog has attacked other dogs. The owner and animal control has been notified.
- The Pollinators Pathways Program will present information on garden pathways pollinators, 3/25 at 6:30 pm at the Tolland library. The TCC is co-sponsoring this presentation with the Garden Club.

8.4. Property Boundaries and Trail Mapping

None.

8.5. Town Owned Property Evaluations

None

8.6. Wanat Property Design Implementation

An email from P. Webb with an update was received.

- The Tolland Garden Paths Wanat team has met would like to extend the garden several feet on the parking lot side. They are also looking into getting the pollinator garden in the Pollinator Pathways program. They are asking for \$60 from the Conservation Commission to help purchase stone dust, bricks and plants. All commissioners agreed to contribute the \$60.

8.7. Grant Writing and Fundraising

None

9. Reports and information from Other Organizations

None.

10. Staff Updates

- D. Corcoran reported on the Land Acquisition Advisory Committee activity to buy land on Torry Road next to the Luce Conservation Area. He presented a map of the area and wanted to know what the Conservation Commission thought. After discussion, it was decided that a walk-through of the area was needed. R. McCann and/or B. Rubino will be needed at the walk-through. J. Simao will schedule and send an email letting the commission members know time and date. If three or more commissioners plan to attending, J. Simao will send an email to D. Corcoran so he can send out a special meeting notice.

11. Items for Next Meeting

Next property for timber harvest, Earth Day plans.

12. Announcements

There were none.

13. Approve Previous Minutes

A motion was made by E. Koss, 2nd by K. Ackerman to accept the minutes of the 08 February 2024 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

14. Adjournment

A motion was made by K. Ackerman, 2nd by E. Koss to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Swan

Secretary, Tolland Conservation Commission