

Agenda
Tolland Conservation Commission
Zoom Remote Meeting
Thursday, May 9, 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. Trail Connection to Shafran
 - 6.2. Discussion on Parciak Timber Harvest
 - 6.3. Plant purchase for Parciak
 - 6.4. Community Campout
- 7. Old Business**
 - 7.1. Next Property for Timber Harvest
 - 7.2. Pollinator Pathway update
 - 7.3. Bigfoot hiking series
- 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 – April 11, 2024 Regular Meeting**
- 14. Adjournment**

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Tolland Conservation Commission (TCC)

Meeting minutes

11 April 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom

1. Call to order 7:04 p.m.

2. Roll call

TCC Members: J. Simao (Chairman), S. McKown, G. Koss, L. A. Swan, A. Grossman

Public: D. Corcoran, B. Rubino, R. McCann

3. Seating of Alternate(s)

None needed.

4. Public Comments

There were none.

5. Additions/Changes to Agenda

Item 6.0 was added, Approval of Head Steward

6. New Business

6.0 Approval of Head Steward

A motion was made by A. Grossman, 2nd by G. Koss to approve the appointment of Ryan McCann as Head Steward of the Conservation Corps. The motion was unanimously approved.

6.1. Next Property for Timber Harvest

D. Corcoran stated that \$15,000 remains allocated for this fiscal year.

- Campell and Stoppleworth properties are potentially the next areas to be harvested. The option of studying other Conservation Areas for potential harvesting was also suggested.
- A discussion followed on the result of the Parciak Conservation Area timber harvest. Concern was expressed over the debris left behind. It was decided that each Conservation Commissioner should walk the Parciak area to see the results of the timber harvest. Specifically, the blue trail on the left at Bald Hill. A walk-thru with the forester and logger will be scheduled if necessary to discuss clean up and work needed to be done. A decision needs to be made on the spending of the funds at next month's Conservation Committee meeting.
- R. McCann stated that the parking area at Parciak is going to be expanded. The rental of a stump grinder and about 15 to 18 yards of gravel is needed. L. A. Swan made and G. Koss 2nd a motion to appropriate \$800 for the expanding of the Parciak parking area. The motion was unanimously approved.

6.2 Earth Day Activities

A discussion on the commission's Earth Day activity of stenciling of storm drains was held.

- J. Simao stated that she has the stencil and paint.
- The area to be stenciled will be Fox Ridge.
- The date was changed to April 21st.
- J. Simao will send out an email.

6.3 Sixth Grade Field Day at Becker Conservation Area

A discussion on the upcoming sixth grade field day at Becker was held. Tick count and barberry removal will be done. Funds are needed to buy plants. A motion was made by L. Swan, 2nd by G. Koss to allocate \$500.00 from the Material Budget to buy plants for the sixth grade field day. The motion passed unanimously.

6.4 Trail Connection at Shafron.

B. Rubino and J. Simao asked to table this item until Clare Cain (Trails Director, CT Forest and Park Association) can attend.

7. Old business

7.1 Bigfoot Event Follow Up

A discussion of the results of the Bigfoot Kickoff Event was held.

- J. Simao stated ~60 people attended with \$840.00 raised. Any ideas or comments noted from the participants can be emailed to L. A. Swan.
- D. Corcoran stated an additional \$30 was received today for licenses.
- Discussion on continuing the Bigfoot/Unicorn themed activities was held. Specifically, holding monthly scavenger hunts at different Conversation Areas using signs. A. Grossman stated he will investigate the use of QR code technology to help with the hunts. J. Simao will send an email to further plan the scavenger hunts.
- To support future fund-raising events the Commission asked D. Corcoran to talk to the Finance Department on how the commission can accept payments online.
- A. Grossman suggested that the commission consider setting up a Haunted Hike/Trail Walk for October. He stated he will revisit this idea in a few months.

7.2 Bodnar Property Site Walk

- Most Commissioners participated in the walk of the Bodnar property. All agreed that the commission is very interested in acquiring this property. Some hunting blinds and traps were observed on the property which could be of concern. D. Corcoran will relay this information to the Land Acquisition Advisory Committee.

8. Reports from Head Steward and Subcommittees

8.1 Conservation Corp

R. McCann informed the Commission on the planned Conservation Corps trail days.

- 4/20 Parciak
- 5/4 King River Side
- 5/18 Luce
- 6/1 Wanat
- 6/15 Shafran
- 6/22 TBD

J. Simao will post the schedule on Facebook. D. Corcoran will post on the Web.

8.2. Management Plans

None.

8.3. Communication and Education

None.

8.4. Property Boundaries and Trail Mapping

None.

8.5. Town Owned Property Evaluations

None

8.6. Wanat Property Design Implementation

None.

8.7. Grant Writing and Fundraising

None.

9. Reports and information from Other Organizations

- J. Simao reported on the Pollinator Pathways presentation. The presentation was well attended. A request for information on how to become part of the Pollinator Pathways has been made.
- L. Swan stated that the Cub Scouts are interesting in participating in a TCC Trail Day. R. McCann is reviewing the upcoming trail days to see if one is appropriate.

10. Staff Updates

- D. Corcoran stated that representatives from the Senior Center called him about creating a path from the Senior Center to the Paulk Hill Conservation Area. A discussion was held on the safety of hikers on the trails at Paulk Hill given the mountain bike trail usage, as well as the difficulty of the terrain. G. Koss stated he will look at maps to see if there was an appropriate area for senior hikers. He will report back to the commission.
- D. Corcoran received a complaint of dirt bike driving at Florence/Old Stafford Road towards Ellington and Settlers Ridge. The activity has been stopped.

11. Items for Next Meeting

Next property for timber harvest, trail connection to Shafran.

12. Announcements

There were none.

13. Approve Previous Minutes

A motion was made by E. Koss, 2nd by S. McKown to accept the minutes of the 14 March 2024 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

14. Adjournment

A motion was made by E. Koss, 2nd by A. Grossman 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