



Town of Cromwell Conservation Commission

**REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M. THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015
ROOM 224/225 CROMWELL TOWNHALL
41 WEST STREET**

MINUTES

Meeting Room 222 was occupied. The room change was written on the Agenda and posted on the doorway of Room 222. The meeting was then moved across the hall to Room 224/225.

1. Call to Order

Vice Chairman John Whitney called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

2. Roll Call and Seating of Alternates

Present: Vice Chairman John Whitney, Joseph Corlis, Joseph Cap, Amanda Drew

Also Present: Town Planner Stuart Popper

3. Approval of Agenda

Amanda Drew made a motion to approve the agenda 2nd by Joseph Corlis

All in Favor. Motion Passed.

4. Town Planner Report:

Stuart Popper said that he is proceeding with work on the Plan of Development and he is looking to set up a formal program.

5. Old Business:

a. Discussion of Open Space

Stuart Popper said he did some open space research and more specifically on the Hoffman Farm, Town-owned property purchased with State grant funds and he determined there cannot be a paved trail there. He said it can be gravel or stone dust type material and that DEEP said that it does not have to be handicap accessible.

Discussion was held on asking the Public Works Director if the Town would be willing to cut some kind of swath to create a path for walking.

Amanda Drew asked Stuart Popper to request that Public Works cut a path up the hill at Hoffman Farm, 2nd by Joseph Corlis.

All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Stuart Popper commented that the STEAP Grant money for the Northern Industrial Tier is being utilized to create improved road access to the area. He said County Line Drive will become a loop road and offer the area the ability to be developed as intended.

He also noted that after reviewing the Open Space parcel a few more parcels have been added since 2009.

Stuart Popper mentioned that on June 13, 2015 the CT Forest Association is hosting a workshop in Meriden on trail building. He said that the members are invited to attend if they would like to learn about trail construction.

6. Farmland Preservation Committee:

Stuart Popper commented that as a result of the State grant money the Farmland Preservation Committee was required to be formed.

Stuart Popper discussed the progress on Phoenix Farm preservation application. He said he spoke with Catherine Winslow from the State DoAg and she said the final figures are being worked up and that the Farm is valued at 35K to 40K. He said with the State grant funding would be 75% of the value and then the other 25% would come from funds from the Town. He said there are two P&Z Meetings in June when the matter can be discussed (6/2/15 & 6/16/15) for the matching funds. He noted that the next Conservation Commission meeting is on June 11, 2015. John Whitney made a point to note that the farm has recently qualified with the State for both a Certified Organic and Connecticut Grown Farm.

7. Communications: None

8. Commissioners' Comments

Joseph Corlis said he has an appointment with the State Senator Kennedy to discuss getting funds for farmers to purchase smaller pieces of farm land. He said they are competing with developers and the grant money for farmland preservation is geared more toward the larger parcels.


9. Public Comments

Brian O'Toole of 40 Court St said he appreciated Commissioner Corlis' information and contact made regarding farmland preservation.

10. Adjourn

Joseph Cap made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM, 2nd by Joseph Corlis All in Favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By,



**Sarah A. Voog
Conservation Commission Clerk**