



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Watch this meeting LIVE and rebroadcast on Comcast Channels 96, 1090, Frontier Channel 6071 and LIVE streamed or on-demand at www.simsburytv.org

OPEN SPACE STEWARDSHIP AND POLICES WORK GROUP

August 3, 2022

4:30 P.M.

Main Meeting Room, Simsbury Town Hall

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

1. Adoption of July 6, 2022 Minutes
2. Discussion on Hometown National Park
3. Discussion on Pinchot Sycamore
4. Discussion on Open Space Template Format and Topics
5. Discussion on Open Space and Agriculture Related APRA Requests

Adjournment

Open Space Stewardship & Policies Work Group

Wednesday, July 6, 2022

4:30 PM- Via Zoom Video Conference

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

PRESENT: Margery Winters, Karen Cordner and Susan Masino

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Tyburski, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation and Tom Fitzgerald, Management Specialist were also in attendance.

Call to Order

Ms. Winters called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 6, 2022 Open Space subcommittee workgroup meeting were accepted.

Ms. Cordner asked if there was any update on the installation of the kestrel falcon boxes. Mr. Tyburski shared that the falcon boxes did get installed, he stated you can see if from Hoskins Road. They have also installed some bluebird boxes out there as well. Mr. Beach said he will have someone monitoring the boxes.

2. Meeting Format- nothing discussed.

3. Open Space Website Updates and Opportunities

Ms. Masino questioned if Mr. Tyburski's new intern would be able to assist with the website. Mr. Tyburski stated that she just started a week ago so he hasn't had the chance to meet with her yet.

Ms. Masino went through her slideshow of suggested edits, additions and deletions. Open Space committee members need to be updated to include Ms. Cordner. She discussed the sidebar menu items that can be deleted such as the Management Plan for Ethel Walker, Old Bridge Road Recommendation/Submissions. She suggested the menu items left be:

- Parks and Open Space Master Plan
- Forrest Stewardship Presentation
- Inventory of Town Owned Open Space
- Meadowood Conservation

Ms. Masino also suggested the following items be added:

- Information for Residents on Wildlife and Pollinators
- Natural Stewardship Policy
- Agricultural Land and Lease Policy
- Tree Removal Policies on Public and Private Land

- Plan of Conservation and Development
- Educational Forums
- Invasives
- Mission

Ms. Corder suggested information be available about the “No Mow” policy as well as volunteer opportunities.

Mr. Tyburski suggested under news and announcements perhaps training opportunities and volunteer opportunities could be listed. He thought it would be helpful if he had a quick meeting with the new intern and Ms. Masino to go over the proposed website changes.

Ms. Corder said she would be happy to write a section about light pollution, she can research it and prepare a draft. She asked if there were other locations in Town besides the library where the pollinator pathways have planted native pollinators. Mr. Tyburski shared that there are maps on the local pollinator website that shows the locations including Memorial Park, Simsbury Farms and the Iron Horse median will also be done later this summer or early fall.

The dark sky initiative was discussed. Ms. Masino shared what she put together, links to the dark skies info sheets will be added. Ms. Winters suggested the information be broken up into sections or bullet points so people are more likely to read it. Ms. Corder shared that she felt the information provided was crisp and short and loves what Ms. Masino put together.

Ms. Masino stated that she also solicited on the Land Trust Listserv if people had policies on encroachment or dumping. Mr. Tyburski stated there is a Town policy on encroachment. Encroachment vs. dumping was discussed. Ms. Masino stated she is going to look through the Town’s other codes and ordinances to see what others they might want on their website.

Ms. Winters stated she ran the native plant policy by the conservation commission, they had some suggestions so she wants to send those back out to the workgroup. Mr. Tyburski mentioned that there may have already been some work done on a native policy. Ms. Winters asked if he could follow-up to see if the BOS have adopted a policy or where it stands.

Ms. Masino asked if the workgroup was able to have a link where they are all able to view and edit the same document. Mr. Tyburski will check on that. Ms. Winters inquired about their prior discussion regarding an agricultural RFP subcommittee, Mr. Tyburski stated that there were no issues with it this year because there was only a single bidder per property. He also stated it would be helpful if they could finalize the mow schedule before fall. Ms. Winters asked if Mr. Tyburski could provide a map of where the various meadows are and their sizes.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Taylor
Committee Clerk

Hello HLCT Neighbors.

We at HLCT are hoping you are getting out to enjoy our various properties throughout Hamden. If you are not familiar with our properties, please log onto HLCT.org to acquaint yourselves with what HLCT has to offer. You can take a hike along the Quinnipiac Blue Trail and scenic overlook at Rocky Top Preserve, a stroll down to the waterfall at Timberwood Falls, a visit to the pollinator garden and the geological wonder at the Brethren, a jaunt along the trail overlooking the kettle depression at Servoss and Mather or a leisurely walk down the loop trail featuring a pollinator garden and kettle pond at Johnson Pond Preserve.

Hamden Land Conservation Trust has recently celebrated our fiftieth anniversary. We could not have existed that long without support from our Hamden neighbors. We know you are as proud of these properties as much as we are. We work extremely hard to improve these neighborhood gems to keep them safe, free of invasives and open to the public for year-round enjoyment.

However, HLCT cannot do it alone. We need support from you, who live nearby these nature retreats, to help us maintain them and to keep them open to the public. At various times we will have work parties at a selected property and invite you to join us with invasive removal and trail maintenance. Please visit us at HLCT.org to join our mailing list and to participate in the various educational programs and hikes that we offer at no charge.

In the meantime, we also need your help to monitor our properties and your neighborhood retreat to be vigilant of any of the following prohibitive actions that may occur on HLCT properties.

1. The dumping of yard waste or debris which may spread invasive plants.
2. The unauthorized tree or shrub removal.
3. The gathering of firewood.
4. The building or erecting of unauthorized structures, forts, or sheds.
5. The riding of bicycles and motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trails due to the erosion that they cause.
6. Camping or fires.
7. Hunting or trapping.

We would also remind everyone to stay on the trails. The forest is home to the various animals that inhabit this property as well. We have constructed brush piles on our properties as an animal habitat / shelter as well as a source of insects for food as the wood decays.

The Hamden Land Trust is an all-volunteer organization. We welcome new members! The board of Trustees is a small resolute group, but with assistance from enthusiastic neighbors there is no limit what we can accomplish! Please visit us at HLCT.org and our Facebook page: "The Hamden Land Conservation Trust" to see what you may be interested in doing to help further our mission as well as to enjoy these various properties with your family, friends, and neighbors!

Thank you,

Hometown National Park

Intro paragraph, our great town, couple of welcoming sentences, public education to inspire homeowners, etc.

Clean Water

- IWWA/conservation commission
- Non-point source pollution
- Lower Farmington Wild and Scenic River
- Farmington River Watershed
- Town Farmland Policy
- WPCA?
- Others?

Wildlife and Pollinators

- Native plants
- Invasive Plants
- Dark Sky Policy and Light Pollution
- No Mow May and Habitat Maintenance
- Peaceful Coexistence with Wildlife
- Intentional feeding ban

Special Features, Natural Forests, and Notable Trees

- Trap Rock Ridges
- Pinchot Sycamore
- Wild and Scenic River
- Old Growth Forest
- National Scenic Trail
- East Coast Greenway

Natural Stewardship Policy

Town Farmland Policy

Recreational, Educational and Cultural Opportunities

Hiking and Nature Study

Bike Friendly Community

Access to the Farmington River

Culture, Parks and Recreation

Simsbury Meadows

Dog Park (name?)

Open Space Inventory

[Simsbury Land Trust](#)

[Simsbury Pollinator Pathway](#)

[FRWA](#)

[possible](#)

Simsbury's Working and Natural Land and Climate Change



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Maria E. Capriola - Town Manager

MEMORANDUM

To: Open Space Work Group
From: Maria Capriola, Town Manager
Cc: Tom Tyburski; Orlando Casiano; Melissa Appleby; Amy Meriwether
Date: August 1, 2022
Subject: Open Space Budgetary Items

The Open Space Committee has previously discussed items that could possibly use ARPA Dollars to benefit the Town. Items discussed were:

- Ecological/Biodiversity studies of open space parcels
- Dredging of Town Forest Pond (funding of this was included in the FY 22/23 budget)
- Removal of invasive plant species from open space parcels
- Development of trails for Meadowood
- Grant apprenticeship program for people interested in farming
- Other ways to support farmers
- Programs for growing/preserving food – DIY type of stuff

In addition to the above list, replacement of the Lake Basille pedestrian footbridge and renovations to House Rest Pond Dam have been budgeted in out years of the capital budget with recommended funding coming from ARPA dollars.

Staff recommends that the work group, in conjunction with staff, prepare a proposal to submit to the Board of Selectmen Finance Sub-Committee this fall in preparation for budget season and development of the Town Manager's proposed FY 23/24 budget.