

Preston Conservation and Agricultural Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 22, 2023
Preston Town Hall
7:30 pm.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Piszczek called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

2. Roll Call

Regular Members

Gary Piszczek, Chairman
Matthew Snurkowski, Vice Chairman
Lynwood Crary - excused
Margaret Gibson
Sandy Pimentel - excused
Ted Zajac

Alternates

Roberta Charpentier - seated
Rebecca Hayes - seated

Also Present

Pat Monahan, Amos Lake Association

Chairman Piszczek seated R. Charpentier and R. Hayes

3. Approval of the April 24, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes

A motion was made by M. Gibson and seconded by G. Piszczek to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2023 as presented.

All in favor. Motion carries.

4. Comments from the Public

No Comments

5. Communications

- a) Email: April 25, 2023: CT Land Conservation Council, monthly update
- b) Letter: April 26, 2023: Connecticut Audubon Society, Yearly Membership
- c) Letter: Connecticut Audubon Society Conservation News, Spring 2023
- d) Email: April 28, 2023: CT Land Conservation Council, Special Edition
- e) Email: May 2, 2023: CT Land Conservation Council, Weekly eNews
- f) Letter: May 9, 2023: Connecticut Farmland Trust, thank you for the donation
- g) Email: May 11, 2023: CT Land Conservation Council, Weekly eNews
- h) Invitation: Connecticut Audubon Society, Owl Garden Party on June 15th
- i) Email: May 17, 2023: CT DEEP; Wildlife Highlights May 2023
- j) Email: May 18, 2023: CT Land Conservation Council, newsletter

6. Public Hearing

None

7. Old Business

a) Clustered Zoning Regulations – Agrihood Planning

G. Piszczek gave a copy of the work sheet to Kathy Warzecha.

b) State Hospital Development

Clean-up has resumed

c) Beaver report

G. Piszczek noted that on his property the beaver have produced a beautiful habitat with Great Blue Heron nesting in it.

d) Petroglyph in Preston, CT

Because of all the rain it is under water

e) The Right to Farm Ordinance

Ordinance is going to a Town Meeting to be voted on.

f) POCD

Town Planner, Kathy Warzecha offered to go over what the CAC would like to see preserved in Town. Amos Lake to the Cove as a waterway and Route 2 to the Quinebaug river (Eversource right of way) being designated as a Wildlife Corridor. Greenway would be between Route 2 and Roosevelt Avenue. Work with Eversource to make a Pollinator Pathway.

g) Ordinance for tax exemption for farm equipment increased to \$200,000

This ordinance has passed

h) ECCD – Rain Garden – Riparian Buffer Project – ZOOM presentation

G. Piszczek noted that they are going to put a riparian buffer by the Hidden Acres Campground on River Road

8. Boots on the Ground – paddles in the water report, Amos Lake Association.

Pat Monahan, Amos Lake Association

- Paddles on the water had scheduled June 25, August 5, and September 29, however June 25th was a conflict with a Bass tournament.
- Paddles will be held on August 5th and September 29th
- Amos Lake water was tested early May and another testing is scheduled for August

G. Piszczek thought it would be beneficial if the Town funded the monitoring of both Amos Lake and Avery Pond

9. Membership

a) Ted Zajac – need the corrected term to be reinstated. Term ending 11/18/2025

A motion was made G. Piszczek and seconded by M. Snurkowski to request the BoS to re-appoint Ted Zajac as a Regular Member of The Conservation and Agricultural Commission for a 6 year term ring in 2028.

All in favor. Motion carries

10. New Business

a) Dandelion Earth Day Contest - 2024

G. Piszczek heard that Canada has a contest for the most dandelions in a yard and thought Preston could have one close to Earth Day. This helps convince people not to mow so early so the pollinators can thrive.

CAC
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The CAC will ask if the art class at Preston Plains would like to participate in making “No Mow May” signs that could be distributed to Preston residents.

b) New DOT tree cutting letter

CAC members went over the letter M. Gibson and G. Piszczek crafted.

11. Meanderings

a) Eagle Road Kill

A large deceased bird was seen on Route 2

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

RT Charpentier

Roberta Charpentier
Preston Recording Secretary

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PRESTON, CT.

2023 MAY 26 A 8:48

J. Keesh
PRESTON TOWN CLERK