



NEWINGTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, October 20, 2016

Conference Room L-101, Lower Level
131 Cedar Street, Newington, CT 06111

6:30 p.m.

A G E N D A

I. ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting of July 14, 2016

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Proposed TPZ Open Space Zone
- b. CT Greenway Nomination for Former I-291 Parcels
- c. Definition of "Open Space"
- d. Comprehensive Open Space Management Strategy
- e. North American Monarch Conservation Plan
- f. DEEP "Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition" program
- g. DEEP "Recreational Trails" program

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

VIII. ADJOURN

Submitted,

Craig Minor, AICP
Town Planner

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TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Town Planner

Tanya D. Lane
Town Manager

Craig Minor, AICP
Town Planner

To: Open Space Committee
From: Town Planner Craig Minor, AICP 
Date: October 14, 2016
Subject: **Agenda Items for October 20, 2016**

This month's meeting is on the third Thursday instead of the second Thursday due to Yom Kippur. It is legally a regular meeting so feel free to add items if desired.

I will be out of town at a planning conference so I can't attend this meeting. If you have any questions about any of these items feel free to call or email me up until the Wednesday before the meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

a. TPZ "Open Space" zone

As of this writing TPZ is considering an alternative way to prevent future development of Town-owned land. Several decades ago the Newington Town Council exempted itself from being subject to the zoning regulations, as allowed under State law. TPZ is considering asking the Town Council to voluntarily rescind that exemption. Until they decide what they want to do about the zoning exemption issue, the "Open Space zone" concept is on hold.

b. CT Greenway Nomination for Former I-291 Parcels

I have begun gathering information on this possible nomination, as requested by the Committee at a recent meeting. The deadline to submit a nomination is next February.

c. Definition of "Open Space"

At the last meeting (July) the Committee reviewed several definitions of "open space" that were created by other organizations. Chairman Conway suggested the members review these definitions on their own time, make note of elements that are appropriate for Newington, and resume discussing it at the next meeting. Those other definitions are hereby re-provided.

d. Comprehensive Open Space Management Strategy

It was agreed at a previous meeting that the Committee would wait until it has its own definition of “open space” before it spends time developing a list of “open space” parcels.

e. North American Monarch Conservation Plan

See attached.

f. DEEP “Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition” program

This is the long-standing program that Newington used to obtain State funding to purchase the Deming-Young Farm in 1999 and the so-called “Marcap Parcel” in 2012. I am not aware of any privately-owned land that the Town should consider acquiring, but possibly the members of the Open Space Committee are. I spoke with Economic Development Director Andy Brecher about the Balf Company property which was the site of the recent Toll Brothers subdivision application, but he told me that property would not be appropriate for this program at this time.

g. DEEP “Recreational Trails” program

I just learned about this program a few weeks ago. “Connecticut Recreational Trails Program” funds may be requested for: construction of new trails; maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails; access to trails by persons with disabilities; acquisition of land or easements for a trail or a trail corridors; educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as related to recreational trails; or planning and design of trails. It occurred to me that the Parks and Recreation Department might want to apply so I passed this information along to Parks Superintendent William DeMaio. He told me that he has used this program in the past when he was with New Britain, but he did not have any project at this time that it would be suitable for.

cc:
file

Various Definitions of “Open Space”

1. Salt Lake County (Utah) Open Land Trust Fund Advisory Committee: “a parcel of land in a predominantly open and undeveloped condition that is suitable for any of the following: Natural areas; Wildlife and native plant habitat; Important wetlands or watershed lands; Stream corridors; Passive, low-impact activities; Little or no land disturbance; and/or Trails for non-motorized activities.”
2. EPA: “Open space is any open piece of land that is undeveloped (has no buildings or other built structures) and is accessible to the public. Open space can include: Green space (land that is partly or completely covered with grass, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation; Green space includes parks, community gardens, and cemeteries); Schoolyards; Playgrounds; Public seating areas; Public plazas; Vacant lots.”
3. USLegal.com website says that: “Open space generally refers to undeveloped land or water area. Specific definitions vary by jurisdiction, so local laws should be consulted for applicable requirements. The following is an example of a local law dealing with open space land:

Open Space land is defined as any land area in which the preservation in its present use would: Conserve and enhance natural or scenic resources; Protect streams or water supply; Promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches or tidal marshes; Enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forest, wildlife preserves, nature reservations or sanctuaries or other open space; Enhance recreation opportunities; Preserve historic sites; Preserve visual quality along highway, road, and street corridor or scenic vistas; or Retain in its natural state tracts of land not less than one acre situated in an urban area and open public use on such conditions as may be reasonably required by the granting authority.”
4. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: “an area of land or water that either remains in its natural state or is used for agriculture, free from intensive development for residential, commercial, industrial or institutional use. Open space can be publicly or privately owned. It includes agricultural and forest land, undeveloped coastal and estuarine lands, undeveloped scenic lands, public parks and preserves. It also includes water bodies such as lakes and bays. The definition of open space depends on the context. In a big city, a vacant lot or a small marsh can be open space. A small park or a narrow corridor for walking or bicycling is open space, though it may be surrounded by developed areas. Cultural and historic resources are part of the heritage of New York State and are often protected along with open space.”
5. The government of Northern Ireland: “open space is taken to mean all open space [sic] of public value, including not just land, but also inland bodies of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity.”

6. State of CT 2016-2020 Open Space Plan (“The Green Plan”): “Any area of land, including forest land, land designated as wetland under section 22a-30 and not excluding farm land, the preservation or restriction of the use of which would (A) maintain and enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources, (B) protect natural streams or water supply, (C) promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches or tidal marshes, (D) enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations or sanctuaries or other open spaces, (E) enhance public recreation opportunities, or (F) preserve historic sites.”

Interestingly, the Green Plan goes on to say that: “Open space does not mean undeveloped natural land or land with an unofficial passive recreational use. For land to be termed “open space,” it must be preserved or protected for open space use. The Green Plan provides strategies for the preservation and the protection of open space. These terms are not used interchangeably in this plan.

7. The New Illustrated Book of Development Definitions: “Any parcel or area of land or water essentially unimproved or set aside, dedicated, designated, or reserved for public or private use or enjoyment or for the use and enjoyment of owners, occupants, and their guests of land adjoining or neighboring such open space.”

Minor, Craig

From: Jane Brawerman <jbrawerman@conservect.org>
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2016 3:03 PM
To: Adam Turner; Alan Johanson; Ann Brown; Anna Sweeney; Bernard Gigliotti; shynes@clintonct.org; Cathie Jefferson; Cathie Jefferson; Christina Costa; Christine Nelson; Craig Grimord; Minor, Craig; Deana Rhodes; John De Laura; Fred Curtin; Geoffrey Colgrove; Heidi Wallace; Hellyn Riggins; James Carey; James Horbal; Jay Gigliotti; Jim Ventres; John Soderberg; Greenlaw, Chris; Sandy Prisloe; Kim Groves; Kim Groves; Kimberley A. Ricci; Lincoln White; Liz West Glidden; Joseph Budrow; Mark Reyher; Richard Serra; Meg Parulis; Michiel Wackers; Nancy Rudek; Peter Hughes; Randy Bernotas; Robert Alvarado; Stuart Popper; Stephen Schiller; Jim Puska; eknapp@clintonct.org; Michelle Ford
Subject: Monarch butterfly conservation
Attachments: Monarch Butterflies.pdf

Hi all,

I am writing to pass along information about Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) efforts to protect monarch butterflies, and how you can help. NRCS is looking for producers and conservation partners interested in developing monarch butterfly habitat on their properties through a cost-share arrangement. Please see attached for more information, and pass along to anyone who you think might be interested.

Anyone who is interested or would like to learn more should contact:

Tammy Knowles
Program Assistant
USDA - NRCS
tammy.knowles@ct.usda.gov
(860) 887-3604 x300
Thank you!

Jane

--

Jane L. Brawerman, Executive Director
Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District
deKoven House Community Center - 27 Washington Street
Middletown, CT 06457
Phone (860) 346-3282
Fax (860) 346-3284
www.conservect.org/ctrivercoastal

Monarch Butterflies



The monarch is one of the most familiar butterflies in North America. The orange-and-black butterfly is known for its annual, multi-generational migration from Mexico to as far north as Canada. Monarch butterflies depend on milkweed to lay their eggs during the journey.

But monarch populations have decreased significantly over the past two decades, in part because of the decrease in native plants, including milkweed, on which their caterpillars feed. Agriculture and development have removed much of the native milkweed that once spanned the country.

Because monarch butterflies are always on the move, they need to have the right plants at the right time along their migration route. Caterpillars need to feed on milkweed to complete their life cycle, and adult butterflies need the right nectar producing plants in bloom for needed energy.

How Do NRCS' Monarch Butterfly Conservation Efforts Work?

NRCS is working with agricultural producers to combat the decline of monarch butterflies by planting milkweed and other nectar-rich plants on private lands. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

With assistance from NRCS, producers and conservation partners can plant milkweed and nectar-rich plants along field borders, in buffers along waterways or around wetlands, in pastures and other suitable locations.

NRCS worked with The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and butterfly experts across the United States to choose the best milkweed species and nectar producing plants to recommend for landowners. Plant lists are available for producers in the Midwest and southern Great Plains. Learn more about NRCS' Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project.

How Do These Conservation Efforts Benefit Producers?

Milkweed not only provides food for monarchs, it also supports other pollinators such as honey bees that are vital to agriculture. Milkweed also provides homes for beneficial insects that control the spread of destructive insects.

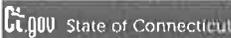
Meanwhile, NRCS conservation practices that benefit monarch butterflies and other insects also help reduce erosion, increase soil health, control invasive species, provide quality forage for livestock and make agricultural operations more resilient and productive. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to implement these practices, helping producers improve working lands and strengthening rural economies.

Partners

NRCS is working with conservation partners, including the Xerces Society, to develop habitat assessment tools, rangeland management guides, and recommended lists of native plants to meet the unique habitat needs for the monarch butterfly.

NRCS' effort contributes to a multi-agency, international strategy to reverse the monarch's population decline in North America. The North American Monarch Conservation Plan has a goal for 10 million acres of monarch habitat to be created or restored in the United States. President Obama met with Mexico President Enrique Peña and Canada Prime Minister Stephen Harper in 2014 to discuss a continent-wide effort to help the monarch and restore loss of milkweed.

Interested producers are encouraged to contact their local USDA service center.



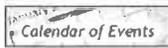

 Governor Dannel P. Malloy |

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Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (C.G.S. Section 7-131d to 7-131k, inclusive)

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Program provides financial assistance to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire land for open space and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II water supply property.

DEEP is currently accepting applications through February 2, 2017.

The Department is accepting applications from municipalities, non-profit land conservation organizations, and water companies for the competitive Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program. The Department will be awarding grants to projects that offer the highest conservation and recreational value - and that leverage the greatest percentage of private and municipal funding.

The Department is also accepting applications from municipalities (often in partnership with non-profits) under the competitive Urban Green and Community Gardens Program. For more information, please see below:

[Grant Questionnaire and Application](#)

[Grant Program Overview & Selection](#)

[Answers to Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Additional Information and Assistance](#)



Wapping Park, South Windsor
Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Recipient

Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program

DEEP is accepting applications through February 2, 2017.

Grants under the Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program will be awarded to distressed municipalities and targeted investment communities to develop or enhance urban open space for public enjoyment and/or environmental education. The promotion of open space in an urban setting may include, but it may not be limited to, the development of a community garden or reclaiming and enhancing existing open space to allow public use.

Awards are given to those projects that demonstrate the highest ability to benefit urban communities in close proximity to population centers.

[Urban Green and Community Gardens Application](#)

[Answers to Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Additional Information and Assistance](#)



FRESH Community Garden at Mercer and Williams Street, New London
Urban Green and Community Grant Recipient

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program Overview & Selection

An application form and required supporting documentation including maps, title searches and appraisals must be submitted to the DEEP by the deadline. Applications must be endorsed by local Planning, Zoning, Conservation and/or Open Space Commissions and must include an advisory report and the recommendations of the appropriate regional planning agency. Applicants are encouraged to apply for parcels that can realistically be acquired within a six to twelve-month time frame. Projects with the required matching share available, appraisal(s) completed, title work completed with a current survey are encouraged. Preference will be given to those lands currently available for acquisition within a twelve-month period.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection will utilize a project selection process to objectively evaluate proposals. Land identified for acquisition will be evaluated by a review team consisting of staff from the various resource management divisions of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture. The decision to pursue acquisition of a parcel will be based on the scores and comments provided by the review team in addition to considerations such as: the criteria for the program; cost; fulfillment of a resource need; geographic distribution; proximity to urban areas or areas with a deficiency of public open space; availability of a donation or bargain sale; stewardship needs and management constraints; compatibility with the State Plan of Conservation and Development and other State environmental plans, policies, goals and objectives; and proximity to other protected open space.

Please review the current version of the grant questionnaire and application carefully and respond fully. For a project proposal(s) to be considered for funding, answer all questions and provide appropriate identified supporting material within the allotted time. The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant program is a competitive program. Any missing information will result in less than optimum scoring. Any information found misleading within the application is grounds for withdrawal of the application and forfeiture of any possible/awarded grant.

Grants are made for the purchase of land that is 1) valuable for recreation, forestry, fishing, conservation of wildlife or natural resources; 2) a prime natural feature of the state's landscape; 3) habitat for native plant or animal species listed as threatened, endangered or of special concern; 4) a relatively undisturbed outstanding example of an uncommon native ecological community; 5) important for enhancing and conserving water quality; 6) valuable for preserving local agricultural heritage; or 7) eligible to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land.

Careful attention should be given to the criteria previously listed and to: 1) protection of land adjacent to and complementary to existing open space, preserved agricultural land or Class I or Class II water company land; 2) proximity to urban areas; 3) land vulnerable to development; 4) consistency with the State's Plan of Conservation and Development; and 5) lands with multiple values such as water supply protection and recreation, or forest preservation and fishing access. Linkages between open spaces are an important consideration as are multi-town projects such as greenways. Cooperative efforts should be fostered between towns, land conservation organizations and local community groups. Preference will be given to open space acquisitions that comply with local and regional open space or conservation and development plans.

Land acquired will be preserved in perpetuity: 1) predominately in its natural scenic and open condition; 2) for the protection or provision of potable water; 3) or for agriculture. A permanent conservation easement will be provided to the State to ensure that the property remains in a natural and open condition for the conservation, open space, agriculture, green space or water supply purpose for which it was acquired. The easement will include a requirement that the property be made available to the general public for appropriate recreational purposes. Where development rights will be purchased and where general public access would be disruptive of agricultural activity, an exception to the provision for public recreational access may be made, at the discretion of the Commissioner. Where development rights are to be purchased, the State of Connecticut will become an equal holder of those rights as a substitute for the easement. No grant may be made for: 1) land to be used for commercial purposes or for recreational purposes requiring intensive development except for forest management or agricultural use; 2) land with environmental contamination; 3) land which has already been committed for public use; 4) development costs; 5) land to be acquired by eminent domain; 6) reimbursement of in-kind services or incidental expenses; 7) for property acquired to the grant applicant prior to the grant application deadline.

The Department may approve grants...

.....to a.....for.....	...in an amount not exceed...*
Municipality	Open space	65% of fair market value
Municipality	Class I & Class II Water supply property	65% of fair market value
Distressed municipality or targeted investment community **	Open space	75% of fair market value
Distressed municipality or targeted investment community **	Resource enhancement or protection	50% of cost of such work
Nonprofit land conservation organization	Open space or watershed protection	65% of fair market value
Nonprofit land conservation organization (if land is located within a distressed or targeted community)	Open space or watershed protection	75% of fair market value
Water company	Class I & Class II water supply property	65% of fair market value

* Please note that the percentages shown represent the maximum grant award and that grant awards may be reduced to a lesser percentage or may be reduced to not exceed an administrative cap.

** See lists under the current [Answers to Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Additional Information and Assistance

Should you have any specific questions or need assistance, first reference the [Answers to Frequently Asked Questions](#). If you have additional questions, please contact [David Stygar](#), Environmental Analyst or [Allyson Clarke](#), Property Agent, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Office of Constituent Affairs/Land Management, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, (860) 424-3081 or 424-3774. For application questions regarding conserving a working farm, contact Elisabeth Moore, Project Director at Connecticut Farmland Trust, at emoore@ctfarmland.org.

Content Last Updated on September 16, 2016.

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Minor, Craig

From: Emily Hultquist <ehultquist@crcog.org>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2016 4:12 PM
To: Emily Hultquist
Subject: DEEP Requests Proposals for Recreational Trails Grants

Good Afternoon –

CRCOG wishes to make you aware of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's recent solicitation for Recreational Trails Grants, due December 15, 2016.

Please see more details from DEEP below and visit the following website for links to the application materials:
http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2707&Q=576550&deepNav_GID=1642

DEEP Requests Proposals for Recreational Trails Grants
Applications for trails projects due by December 15, 2016

Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is now accepting proposals for **Connecticut's Recreational Trails Program Grants**. Applications will be accepted through **December 15, 2016**.

Connecticut Recreational Trails Program funds may be requested for projects including:

- Construction of new trails (motorized and non-motorized).
- Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails (motorized and non-motorized).
- Access to trails by persons with disabilities.
- Purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment.
- Acquisition of land or easements for a trail, or for trail corridors.
- Operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as related to recreational trails.
- Planning and design of trails.

Pending availability of funds during 2017-2018, grants may be made to any private nonprofit organizations, municipalities, state departments and tribal governments. Grant amounts vary.

http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2707&Q=576550&deepNav_GID=1642

Contact Laurie Giannotti, Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator by phone (860-424-3578) or [email](#) with any questions.

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**Connecticut Department of
Energy & Environmental Protection**
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
State Parks & Public Outreach Division

Connecticut Recreational Trails Program Grant Application Information

(For any State funds that may become available in 2017-18)

Deadline for Submission is December 15, 2016

Eligible Applicants: Eligible sponsors include private organizations; municipalities; federal, state and regional agencies and other government entities such as tribal.

Eligible Uses: Grants to be used for planning/design, trail corridor acquisition, construction, construction administration, maintenance equipment, amenities and publications/outreach related to bikeways, multi-use trails (including motorized) and water trails (blueways).

Guidelines: The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) staff and its advisory committee The CT Greenways Council review proposals based upon the following criteria:

Point Value	Project Attribute
15	This is a project that is noted in <u>DEEP's Recreational Trails Plan</u>
15	This project will connect to and extend trail(s) on state owned land.
10	This project is included in a local and/or regional plan.
10	This project will be located in more than one town or provide a link to one or more towns.
15	This is the Next Phase of a project previously completed and funded by CT Recreational Trails Program (CRTP)
5	This project is part of an alternative transportation plan (bike ped, etc)
15	This project is part of a CT Greenways Council designated greenway.
5	This project is receiving funding from other State or Federal agencies.
5	This project incorporates a Safe Routes to School program
5	This project serves an urbanized area
10	Pedestrian Use (hiking, running, xc skiing, snowshoe) (scoring based upon <u>SCORP</u>)
8	Biking (scoring based upon SCORP)
6	Motorized Use (scoring based upon SCORP)
8	Equestrian Use (scoring based upon SCORP)
15	Adequate Maintenance Plan
15	Statewide support demonstrated through letters
10	Regional support demonstrated through letters
5	Local support demonstrated through letters
10	Public meetings held regarding trail development or land acquisition
10	Sponsorship from local or regional group, agency or organization
Educational Projects	
15	Statewide audience
10	or Regional audience
8	or Local audience
5	Public/non-profit involvement in outreach and maintenance of program
5	Public/non-profit endorsement and involvement in creation of program
5	Need demonstrated
5	Effectiveness will be demonstrated

Connecticut Recreational Trails Program Grant Application

Grant Making Process: The following outlines the general grant making process. Once program funds have been secured by DEEP, the process can take up to 6 months or more; please plan accordingly. Match accrued up to 18 months prior to your contract document finalization date is applicable. Match can be provided as cash or in-kind services.

1. You will receive an email or letter acknowledging receipt of your application.
2. Applications will be assessed for eligibility and given a score according to the program guidelines on page 1 of this application.
3. The program's Advisory Committee will advise DEEP on scores and ultimate rankings.
4. A short list of projects recommended for potential funding will be created. Applicants on this short list will be contacted and will be required to provide the following relevant items:
 - a. Copies of permits obtained and time-frames for necessary, but still outstanding permits (Part III, Item 1);
 - b. Copies of relevant excerpts of local and/or regional plan documents that reference your project (Part III, Item 3);
 - c. Evidence of public participation, such as public notices, news releases, public surveys, minutes and news articles (Part III, Item 6);
5. A final list of applications to be funded will be generated. You will be notified by DEEP via email that our contracting process has begun. You must not begin any project work that you intend to be reimbursed for prior to your receipt of a DEEP authorized contract number.

Submission and Deadline: Proposals must be received by **December 15, 2016**.

- a. Email to laurie.giannotti@ct.gov

OR

- b. Mail reports *on a CD* or other electronic storage device as appropriate to:

Laurie Giannotti, Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

OR

- c. If you must send a paper proposal, include color maps and send to the above address.