

**NEWINGTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**September 12, 2019**

Chairman Bernadette Conway called the regular meeting of the Newington Open Space Committee to order at 6:30 pm in Room L-101 of Newington Town Hall, 131 Cedar Street, Newington, CT.

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Bernadette Conway  
Commissioner Sharon Dunning  
Commissioner Gail Budrejko

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Chris Miner  
Commissioner Carol Wojtowicz

Town Staff Present:

Town Planner Craig Minor

**I. ROLL CALL**

The presence of the above members was noted.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Dunning made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Budrejko. All were in favor.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. June 13, 2019

Chairman Conway made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Dunning. All were in favor except Budrejko (abstained).

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Trees at Indian Hill Country Club

Town Planner Minor said that he has not spoken to the country club management about the trees that were removed and the ones that are slated to be removed. Chairman Conway said that it would be good to get a final report on this issue. Commissioner Dunning asked if it was possible that there were any historically-significant trees on the grounds, such as a descendent of the Charter Oak. Mr. Minor said he would look into that.

c. Old Highway on Cedar Ridge

Town Planner Minor reported that the land underneath Old Highway is in fact Town-owned and not just an easement. Chairman Conway asked him to draft a letter from the Committee to the Town Manager, asking her to tell the Humane Society to stop discouraging the public from using this Town-owned resource.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Budrejko mentioned that Town-owned trees seem to be a hot topic on Facebook these days – the Charter Oak; the tree on Main Street at Goldburgers; on Hartt Street; etc. She asked if the Town Tree Warden could come to the next meeting to discuss this. Mr. Minor suggested that the Tree Warden be asked to send the Committee a memo explaining what his duties are. If the Committee still wants to meet with him after that he could be invited to the next meeting.

Chairman Conway said that she and several other Committee members attended the POCD workshop meeting on August 29, and that it was very good. She asked Mr. Minor if the items that the Committee had discussed at the special meeting in July had been forwarded to Glenn Chalder. Mr. Minor replied “yes” but that he would double-check. Chairman Conway also asked Mr. Minor to make sure that a copy of the POCD “Briefing Booklet” dealing with open space issues is sent to each Open Space Committee member.

**VIII. Adjourn**

Commissioner Dunning made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Budrejko. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Minor, AICP  
Town Planner