

**NEWINGTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 9, 2025**

Chair Gia Pascarelli called the regular meeting of the Newington Open Space Committee to order at 6:30 pm in Town Council Chambers, Room 103 of the Newington Town Hall, 200 Garfield Street, Newington, CT. This was a hybrid/webinar meeting.

**Commissioners Present:**

Gia Pascarelli

Gail Budrejko

Bernadette Conway

Wendy Holness

Lukas Houle

Mitch Page

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IN NEWINGTON, CT

2025 FEB 28 AM 11:15

*John O'Leary*  
Town Clerk

**Commissioners Excused:**

Sandra Austin Goldstein

**Town Staff Present:**

Paul Dickson, Town Planner

**I. ROLL CALL**

Town Planner Paul Dickson called the roll with the presence of the above members noted.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion to accept the agenda as presented approved by Commissioner Pascarelli and approved unanimously (Pascarelli, Budrejko, Conway, Holness, and Houle).

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Election of Officers**

Committee Member Budrejko nominated the existing slate of officers (Chair – Gia Pascarelli Chair, Vice Chair- Committee Member Bernadette Conway, Secretary – Wendy Holness)

Committee Member Conway seconded the nomination of the slate.

The slate of officers was approved unanimously (Pascarelli, Budrejko, Conway, Holness, Houle).

**V. ADOPTION OF REGULAR MEETING DATES 2025**

Committee Member Conway's motion to adopt the regular meeting dates for 2025 was seconded by Committee Member Budrejko and was approved unanimously (Pascarelli, Budrejko, Conway, Holness, Houle).

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Open Space Commission Priorities and Future Work Discussion**

Mr. Dickson stated, that at the last meeting on October 10, 2024, the Natural Resource Inventory was a primary topic of discussion for the meeting. Mr. Dickson and the Committee discussed potential paths forward for the Natural Resource Inventory. The potential path forward includes staff review of property in town and considerations of zoning regulations to see what zoning mechanisms might be used for protections of open land. Hiring graduate interns to work on this Inventory initiative was also discussed.

Commission Member Budrejko shared with the group, a manual on collecting Natural Resource Inventory from the Hudson Valley NY website. She stated that the group will need short and long term goals.

Mr. Dickson asked that Commission members forward any other documents to him so that they can be collected and reviewed at the next meeting. He also suggested that a Purpose Statement be drafted to begin discussion of the scope of the project.

It was suggested that once the Natural Resource Inventory was available, it could be provided to developers so that they would be aware of the Town' and residents' priorities.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**X. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

None.

**XI. Motion to adjourn**

All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Dickson



Town Planner

PD/jt