

CAC

**Preston Conservation and Agricultural Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 24, 2022
Preston Town Hall
7:30 pm.**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Piszczek called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

2. Roll Call

Regular Members

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

Alternates

Roberta Charpentier
Rebecca Hayes - excused

Also present

Pat Monahan, President Amos Lake Association

Chairman Piszczek seated Roberta Charpentier

3. Approval of the November 22, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes

A motion was made by M. Snurkowski and seconded by T. Zajac to accept the Regular Meeting Minute of November 22, 2021 as presented.

All in favor. Motion carries.

4. Comments from the Public

None

5. Communications

a) Letter dated December 10, 2021 from the Connecticut Audubon Society to friends of birds and wildlife regarding renewal of membership as it expires on February 2, 2022.

A motion was made by G. Piszczek and seconded by R. Charpentier to renew membership for Connecticut Audubon Society in the same amount as 2021.

All in favor. Motion carries.

b) Letter dated November 17, 2021 to CAC from CT Land Conservation Council regarding land trusts.

Tabled

c) Letter from CT Farmland Trust to CAC regarding farmland trusts and making \$100 donation.

A motion was made by G. Piszczek and seconded by T. Zajac to donate \$100 to the CT Farmland Trust.

All in favor. Motion carries.

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6. Public Hearing

None

7. Old Business

a) Clustered Zoning Regulations

Tabled

b) State Hospital Development

Preparing to restart clean-up operations

S. Pimental is concerned that if the clean-up is near nesting eagles it could cause stress and disruption.

Chairman Piszczek and S. Pimental will attend a PRA meeting to inform them that there are eagles on the property.

c) Beaver bumper report

Beavers are gone

d) Petroglyph in Preston, CT

The water is currently too high to look for the petroglyph

e) Tri-Town Trail and Crosswalk

The 1st Selectwoman contacted DOT regarding this crosswalk and DOT will be installing one.

f) The Guiles Safford cemetery

Chairman Piszczek stated that the Historical Society is pursuing a grant to take the trees that need to come down in the Guiles Safford Cemetery

Chairman Piszczek spoke with the 1st Selectwoman about the tree work needed at the cemetery and she said if the CAC put together a plan on helping the Town maintain some of the abandoned cemeteries, they would be receptive to it.

g) Eversource – Mary Dora Woodland parking area.

Eversource agreed to grade/level the parking area with crushed stone.

h) Blue Camp CT, LLC

Chairman Piszczek stated that the Public Hearing was extended for 35 days at the request of the applicant.

Chairman Piszczek noted that he read the letter he sent to the IWWC into the record at the Public Hearing.

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

P. Monahan stated she had a meeting with Thames River Basin Partnership and presenter Donna Merrill, President of Pollinator Pathway Northeast.

There is an initiative to improve pollinator habitat productivity because what they found is that it is very fragmented and the Pollinator Pathway goal is to defragment the Pathway.

<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org>

See report attached to Minutes

M. Snurkowski suggested using the pond at the ball fields and the Mary-Dora Woodlands where there is an open field.

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9. New Business

a) Blue Camp CT, LLC recommendation to PZC

Chairman Piszczek stated the CAC has to write a recommendation on the Blue Camp development for Planning & Zoning.

Commercial access should not be allowed to Avery Pond, because the Pond can't sustain it. A buffer should be maintained between the residential area and the campground.

M. Snurkowski stated they reduced the size of the golf cart path but they haven't explained how fire emergency vehicles or ambulances could quickly respond to that area.

M. Snurkowski wondered if campers will be allowed to bring in their own firewood, because DEP has restrictions on out of State fire wood.

M. Snurkowski noted that aesthetics is part of the Inland Wetlands Commission's Mission Statement.

M. Snurkowski presented a map from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station that shows invasive species at Avery Pond and noted they are in the area of the dock so additional kayakers could disturb and spread invasives.

Chairman Piszczek stated the CAC can recommend that the Planning & Zoning Commission restrict any extra access to Avery Pond. If campers want to access the Pond there is a State approved boat launch and that should be enough.

Chairman Piszczek noted that the Planning & Zoning Commission also has the responsibility to respect the wishes of the residential area also.

T. Zajak asked if the developers own up to the State boat launch.

Chairman Piszczek answered no the Resort Commercial zone just touches the tip of the lake and doesn't even go where they want to put the glamping so they're going to need a special exemption for that also.

M. Snurkowski thought the CAC should stress not only Avery Pond but crossing the wetlands as well.

Chairman Piszczek stated the CAC will stress the Town should insist on a larger buffer between the residential area which would eliminate the floating dock.

b) Amos Lake water quality

Pat Monahan, President Amos Lake Association presented reports on water testing that was done four times (June, July, August September)

See report attached to Minutes

- P. Monahan noted the lake is mesotrophic but the phosphorus is throwing it into the eutrophic state.
- The high phosphate helps to feed the milfoil and keeps the weeds growing.
- P. Monahan noted that they will receive a report by the end of the year with recommendations.

Chairman Piszczek asked if it has gotten worse.

P. Monahan stated she didn't think so because the Association has brought awareness to the neighborhood. Teaching people that common day to day things they do run into the lake and

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hurt the lake. Switching from cleaners that have chemicals and are toxic. We have free soil testing, so people don't add fertilizers to their lawn when it's not needed.

c) Right to Farm Ordinance

M. Snurkowski stated that a resident asked him if Preston had a "Right To Farm" Act and when he looked into it found that Preston does not. 12 CT municipalities do have a Right To Farm Ordinance.

M. Snurkowski stated he will get more information if CAC members are interested in pursuing this.

CAC members agreed.

10. Meanderings

April 23 is the tentative date for the Town wide clean-up for Earth Day

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

RT Charpentier

Respectfully submitted
Roberta Charpentier
Preston Recording Secretary

At the January meeting of TRBP (Thames River Basin Partnership).

Special Presentation: Donna Merrill, President Pollinator Pathway Northeast, gave a presentation on the history of Pollinator Pathway initiative and how it is expanded into 10 states in the northeastern region of the United States. The focus of this initiative is to improve pollinator habitat and pollinator connectivity. Our landscape has been chopped up, or fragmented, through urban- and suburban-ization. The problem is, we can no longer support sustainable populations of wildlife in our isolated parks and preserves alone. Because the Pollinator Pathway "de-fragments" the environment, it benefits our ecosystem as a whole. Dr. Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware entomologist, book Bringing Nature Home.

Indirect impacts include improved water quality and carbon sequestration. The main premise of the program is to encourage landowners to voluntarily participate in the initiative by reducing the size of their lawns, incorporating more native plants including flowering trees, shrubs and wildflowers, limiting herbicide and avoiding pesticide use. Municipalities enrolled in the Sustainable CT program that also enroll in the Pollinator Pathway Initiative can earn points towards their Bronze, Silver or Gold status. Towns can create a pathway by following the steps laid out on the website.

By focusing on butterflies, bees, wasps and other critters as pollinator ambassadors, landowners can increase the biodiversity of pollinators that visit their land. To learn more about the Pollinator Pathway initiative or to review their excellent resource list, please visit their website <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>. For more information and/or to receive their newsletter, email them at info@pollinator-pathway.org.

With funding from USFF (Long Island Sound Futures Fund), Maura Robie of ECCD is leading a project using riparian buffers and rain gardens to improve water quality while creating. One route for the pathway will be from Groton to the tri-town trail to Preston and Poquetanuck Cove. We don't the contract yet but will be looking for sites for rain gardens and riparian buffers and pollinator pathways.

I reached out to Kathy Warzecha just to keep her in the loop of these types of projects. Preston is registered with sustainable CT. I think the pollinator pathway project would be good for Preston and the fact that ECCD may have some funding available is even better. Maybe we can bring some partnering agencies together and make this happen for Preston.

Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering University of Connecticut 3107 Horsesham Hill Road Storrs, CT 06269-4210		Fax # (860) 486-5488 Telephones # (860) 486-4018 Email: cese - custserv@uconn.edu Analyst: S. Kasal Reported by: C. Perkins		Ecosystem Consulting Service - Amos Lake Order # 210221 Matrix: Water Contact: B. Burpee Report Date: 8/19/21	
Nutrients					
EPA Method #	365.1	365.2	365.4	365.2	200.7
Practical Quantitation Limit (PQL)	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.050	20.00
Method Detection Limit (MDL)	0.003	0.003	0.001	0.008	25.00
Analysis Date	8/29/21	8/29/21	7/28/21	8/29/21	8/29/21
Units	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	ug/L
FIELD #	NH3	TP	TN	SiO2	Fe
Amos 2m	0.014	ND	0.619	0.390	2.776
Amos 5m	0.046	0.056	0.619	0.466	NSS
Amos 8m	0.290	0.108	0.676	0.968	NSS
Amos 11m	0.704	ND	0.659	1.009	NSS
					3897.00
					911.50

Italicized are between the MDL and PQL and are to be used as a reference only
 ND = Not Detected

Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering University of Connecticut 3107 Horsesham Hill Road Storrs, CT 06269-4210		Fax # (860) 486-5488 Telephones # (860) 486-4018 Email: cese - custserv@uconn.edu Analyst: S. Kasal + S. Bapatkate Reported by: S. Kasal		Ecosystem Consulting Service Order # 210229 Matrix: Water Contact: B. Burpee Report Date: 8/19/21	
Nutrients					
EPA Method #	365.1	365.2	365.4	365.2	200.7
Practical Quantitation Limit (PQL)	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.050	25.00
Method Detection Limit (MDL)	0.003	0.003	0.001	0.008	1.00
Analysis Date	8/19/21	8/10/21	8/19/21	8/17/21	8/5/21
Units	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	ug/L
FIELD #	NH3	NOX	TP	TN	Fe
Amos 2m	0.076	ND	0.076	0.355	3.270
Amos 5m	0.284	ND	0.076	0.355	NSS
Amos 8m	0.284	ND	0.076	0.355	NSS
Amos 11m	1.022	ND	0.084	1.016	NSS
					7485.00
					1048.00

Italicized are between the MDL and PQL and are to be used as a reference only
 ND = Not Detected

Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering University of Connecticut 3107 Horsesham Hill Road Storrs, CT 06269-4210		Fax # (860) 486-5488 Telephones # (860) 486-4015 Email: cese - custserv@uconn.edu Analyst: S. Kasal + S. Ayers Reported by: S. Kasal		Ecosystem Consulting Service Order # 210229 Matrix: Water Contact: B. Burpee Report Date: 8/27/21	
Nutrients					
EPA Method #	365.1	365.2	365.4	365.2	200.7
Practical Quantitation Limit (PQL)	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.050	25
Method Detection Limit (MDL)	0.003	0.003	0.001	0.008	92/21
Analysis Date	8/19/21	8/19/21	8/27/21	8/27/21	8/27/21
Units	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	ug/L
FIELD #	NH3	NOX	TP	TN	Fe
Amos 2m	0.016	ND	0.022	0.345	3.599
Amos 5m	0.035	ND	0.033	0.323	NSS
Amos 8m	0.096	ND	0.041	0.409	NSS
Amos 11m	1.012	ND	0.119	1.085	NSS
					6284.00
					1122.00

Italicized are between the MDL and PQL and are to be used as a reference only

Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering University of Connecticut 3107 Horsesham Hill Road Storrs, CT 06269-4210		Fax # (860) 486-5488 Telephones # (860) 486-4015 Email: cese - custserv@uconn.edu Analyst: S. Kasal + S. Ayers Reported by: S. Kasal		Ecosystem Consulting Service Order # 11821 Matrix: Water Contact: B. Burpee Report Date: 11/8/21	
Nutrients					
EPA Method #	365.1	365.2	365.4	365.2	200.7
Practical Quantitation Limit (PQL)	0.010	0.010	0.010	0.050	0.1
Method Detection Limit (MDL)	0.003	0.003	0.001	0.008	0.0
Analysis Date	10/5/21	10/5/21	10/6/21	10/7/21	10/7/21
Units	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	ug/L
FIELD #	NH3	NOX	TP	TN	Fe
Amos 2m	0.045	ND	0.028	0.373	3.960
Amos 5m	0.145	ND	0.060	0.350	NSS
Amos 8m	0.259	ND	0.060	0.253	NSS
Amos 11m	1.108	ND	0.163	1.283	NSS
					8188
					1239

Italicized are between the MDL and PQL and are to be used as a reference only

Microtrophic Eutrophic TP
Secchi 2.95M
4 supports small