

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

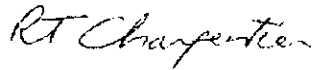
CAC members agreed.

**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.**



Respectfully submitted  
Roberta Charpentier  
Preston Recording Secretary

Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering University of Connecticut 3107 Horsebarn Hill Road Storrs, CT 06269-4210				Fax # (860) 486-5488 Telephone # (860) 486-4015 Email: cese - custserv@uconn.edu Analyst: S. Kexel Reported by: C. Perkins				Ecosystem Consulting Service - Amos Lake Order # 210211 Matrix: Water Contact: B. Burpee Report Date: 8/5/21			
Nutrients				350.1	353.2	365.4	353.2	370.1	200.7	200.7	
EPA Method #				0.010	0.010	0.010	0.050	0.1	25.00	25.00	
Practical Quantitation Limit (PQL)				0.003	0.003	0.001	0.008	0.0	1.00	1.00	
Method Detection Limit (MDL)				6/29/21	6/29/21	6/30/21	7/1/21	7/28/21	6/30/21	6/30/21	
Analysis Date				mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	ug/L	ug/L	
Units				NH3	NOX	TP	TN	SIO2	Fe	Mn	
LIM #	FIELD #	Collected	Delivered								
210211-001	Amos 2m	6/23/21	6/25/21	0.014	ND	0.019	0.390	2.776	NSS	NSS	
210211-002	Amos 6m	6/23/21	6/25/21	0.046	0.056	0.019	0.466	NSS	NSS	NSS	
210211-003	Amos 8m	6/23/21	6/25/21	0.280	0.108	0.016	0.608	NSS	NSS	NSS	
210211-004	Amos 11m	6/23/21	8/25/21	0.704	ND	0.038	1.009	NSS	3997.00	911.50	

NSS = No Sample Sent ND = Not Detected

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 Horsebarn Hill Road Storrs, CT 06269-4210				Fax # (860) 486-5488 Telephone # (860) 486-4015 Email: cese - custserv@uconn.edu Analysts: S. Kexel + S. Stajcinskaite Reported by: S. Kexel				Ecosystem Consulting Service Order # 210279 Matrix: Water Contact: B. Burpee Report Date: 9/10/21			
Nutrients				350.1	353.2	365.4	353.2	370.1	200.7	200.7	
EPA Method #				0.010	0.010	0.010	0.050	0.1	25.00	25.00	
Practical Quantitation Limit (PQL)				0.003	0.003	0.001	0.008	0.0	1.00	1.00	
Method Detection Limit (MDL)				8/10/21	8/10/21	8/12/21	8/12/21	8/17/21	8/5/21	8/5/21	
Analysis Date				mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	ug/L	ug/L	
Units				NH3	NOX	TP	TN	SIO2	Fe	Mn	
LIM #	FIELD #	Collected	Delivered								
210279-001	Amos 2m	7/28/21	7/30/21	ND	ND	0.016	0.355	3.270	NSS	NSS	
210279-002	Amos 6m	7/28/21	7/30/21	ND	ND	0.025	0.402	NSS	NSS	NSS	
210279-003	Amos 8m	7/28/21	7/30/21	0.264	ND	0.023	0.502	NSS	NSS	NSS	
210279-004	Amos 11m	7/28/21	7/30/21	1.002	ND	0.084	1.016	NSS	7486.00	1046.00	

NSS = No Sample Sent ND = Not Detected

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Nutrients				350.1	353.2	365.4	353.2	370.1	200.7	200.7	
EPA Method #				0.010	0.010	0.010	0.050	0.1	25	25	
Practical Quantitation Limit (PQL)				0.003	0.003	0.001	0.008	0.0	1	1	
Method Detection Limit (MDL)				9/1/21	9/1/21	9/2/21	9/3/21	9/21/21	9/3/21	9/3/21	
Analysis Date				mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	ug/L	ug/L	
Units				NH3	NOX	TP	TN	SIO2	Fe	Mn	
LIM #	FIELD #	Collected	Delivered								
210329-001	Amos 2m	8/25/21	8/30/21	0.018	ND	0.022	0.345	3.599	NSS	NSS	
210329-002	Amos 6m	8/25/21	8/30/21	0.025	ND	0.03	0.323	NSS	NSS	NSS	
210329-003	Amos 8m	8/25/21	8/30/21	0.006	ND	0.041	0.409	NSS	NSS	NSS	
210329-004	Amos 11m	8/25/21	8/30/21	1.012	ND	0.118	1.085	NSS	8264.00	1122.00	

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Nutrients				350.1	353.2	365.4	353.2	370.1	200.7	200.7	
EPA Method #				0.010	0.010	0.010	0.050	0.1	25	25	
Practical Quantitation Limit (PQL)				0.003	0.003	0.001	0.008	0.0	1	1	
Method Detection Limit (MDL)				10/5/21	10/5/21	10/8/21	10/7/21	10/27/21	10/7/21	10/7/21	
Analysis Date				mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	ug/L	ug/L	
Units				NH3	NOX	TP	TN	SIO2	Fe	Mn	
LIM #	FIELD #	Collected	Delivered								
210413-001	Amos 2m	9/29/21	10/4/21	0.009	ND	0.026	0.373	3.940	NSS	NSS	
210413-002	Amos 6m	9/29/21	10/4/21	0.015	ND	0.033	0.360	NSS	NSS	NSS	
210413-003	Amos 8m	9/29/21	10/4/21	0.009	ND	0.030	0.233	NSS	NSS	NSS	
210413-004	Amos 11m	9/29/21	10/4/21	1.109	ND	0.163	1.283	NSS	8136	1235	

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TP  
2021 10/25/21 A. K. K. K. K. K.

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 has expanded into 10 states in the northeastern region of the United States. The focus of this initiative is to improve pollinator habitat and pollinator habitat 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 native 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](mailto:info@pollinator-pathway.org).

With funding from LISFF ( 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 have 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.