

**Preston Conservation and Agricultural Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 27, 2023
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
Margaret Gibson
Sandy Pimentel
Ted Zajac – excused

Alternates

Roberta Charpentier
Rebecca Hayes - seated

Also Present

Pat Monahan, Amos Lake Association
Preston Boy Scout Troop 75

Chairman Piszczek seated Rebecca Hayes

3. Approval of the March 13, 2023 Special Meeting minutes

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Snurkowski to accept the Special Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2023 as presented.

All in favor. Motion carries.

4. Comments from the Public

No Comments

5. Communications

- a) Email: February 28, 2023: Connecticut Land Conservation Council, Monthly Review.
- b) Email: March 7, 2023: Connecticut Land Conservation Council, Weekly enews
- c) Email: March 9, 2023: CT DEEP; Wildlife Highlights
- d) Flyer: New England Environmental Services: regarding Wildflower and Pollinator Meadows
- e) ECCD Outlook, Winter 2023 Edition

6. Public Hearing

None

7. Old Business

a) Clustered Zoning Regulations – Agrihood Planning

G. Piszczek suggested CAC Members read up on Agrihoods because it may be a better fit for Preston than a clustered zoning development.

b) State Hospital Development

G. Piszczek looked through the environmental studies done at the property, and he will scan and send to CAC members for discussion.

c) Beaver report

Pat Monahan noted that Amos Lake and Avery Pond have beavers.

d) Petroglyph in Preston, CT

M. Snurkowski noted that because of all the rain it is under water again.

e) The Right to Farm Ordinance

Joan Nichols., CT Farm Bureau, Executive Director sent L. Crary the Ordinances used by towns of Lebanon and Mansfield to use as a template.

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Snurkowski that the CAC forward the Right to Farm Ordinance and the Ordinance for tax exemption for farm equipment increased to \$200,000 to the BoS.

All in favor. Motion carries.

f) POCD

Chairman Piszczek spoke with town Planner, Kathy Warzecha noted about designation Amos Lake to the Cove as a waterway and Route 2 to the Quinebaug river (Eversource right of way) being designated as a Wildlife Corridor.

L. Crary asked about putting the Agrihood in the POCD

S. Pimental noted that on the town's GIS maps, an area around Route 2A down to Happy Land and also around Amos Lake, is designated as a Special Resource Protection Override and asked what it means.

G. Piszczek will ask K. Warzecha.

g) Ordinance for tax exemption for farm equipment increased to \$200,000

See Motion under e) Right to Farm Ordinance

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

Pat Monahan explained that three Paddle on the Water events will be held this year and the permit request has been submitted to DEP.

Two daytime paddles in June and August, Full Moon paddle in September.

9. New Business

a) Route 164 – DOT policy - “If it grows, it goes”

Chairman Piszczek noted that a letter of protest will be sent to DOT

b) Agricultural Preservation Fund – CAC budget request

Request of \$15,000 in the CAC budget specifically for matching funds from the the Open Space fees that come in, to build up the Open Space Fund, was not approved by the BoS.

c) Earth Day trash pickup

SCRRA will provide bags, pickers and vests

Volunteers will meet at Town Hall at 9:00 am

Concentrate on specific roads

Amy Brosnan will post on the Town's Web Site

**A motion was made by G. Piszczek and seconded by M. Snurkowski to approve the plans for Earth Day as discussed.
All in favor. Motion carries.**

d) Eversource Easement request

CAC had a Site Walk on the Mary-Dora Preserve and walked the area where Eversource would like an easement. The CAC came up with some recommendations including the establishment of a Pollinator pathway. Eversource has committed \$20,000 for a permanent easement on Paster Road. They will be using it to perform maintenance once or twice a year.

Requests made to Eversource:

- \$20,000 for Open Space Fund
- Pollinator Pathway
- Re-seed entire right of way from Route 2 to the Quinebaug River

10. Meanderings

None

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

RT Charpentier

Roberta Charpentier
Preston Recording Secretary

RECEIVED
PRESTON, CT.
2023 APR -4 A 9:42
Chris Keith
PRESTON TOWN CLERK