

**Preston Conservation and Agricultural Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 26, 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 - absent
Lynwood Crary
Margaret Gibson - absent
Sandy Pimentel
Ted Zajac

Alternates

Roberta Charpentier - seated
Rebecca Hayes - excused

Chairman Piszczek seated Roberta Charpentier

3. Approval of the July August 22, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by T. Zajac to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2022 as presented.

All in favor. Motion carries.

4. Comments from the Public

No Public present

5. Communications

- a) Connecticut Farmland Trust
- b) Email: August 22, 2022: CLCC Deputy Director's updated list of Programs
- c) Email: August 30, 2022: Connecticut Land Conservation Council, newsletter
- d) The Connecticut Audubon Society; Fall 2022 Newsletter
- e) Marijuana Dispensary and Production Regulation Draft

6. Public Hearing

None

7. Old Business

a) Clustered Zoning Regulations – Agri hood Planning

Chairman Piszczek noted that he added Agri Hood Planning to Clustered Zoning Regulations, and K. Warzecha said Planning & Zoning would like to meet with the CAC to discuss.

b) State Hospital Development

The PRA and Mohegan Tribe have agreed on an amendment to the Property Disposition and Development Agreement. A Town Meeting to vote on its approval will be held October 6th. Once it is approved the clean-up will resume.

c) Beaver bumper report

Chairman Piszczek stated that Jerry Grabarek has beavers on his farm now. Chairman Piszczek explained that beavers create habitat for other animals.

R. Charpentier noted that the beaver returned to the Tri Town Trail property.

d) Petroglyph in Preston, CT

M. Snurkowski not present to discuss

e) Tri-Town Trail and Crosswalk

Tri-Town Trail members met with the 1st Selectwoman to discuss. Because the Town plans to pursue the project Poquetanuck Village Traffic Calming Project which will include a crosswalk, the TTT might hold off.

f) Eversource – Mary Dora Woodland parking area.

Chairman Piszczek noted they currently have a lot of equipment in the area.

g) The right to Farm Ordinance

M. Snurkowski not present to discuss.

h) POCD

Chairman Piszczek noted that the watercourse map from Pat Monahan will be helpful

i) BMP – Farms & Watercourses

Will discuss after right to Farm Ordinance is completed

j) Poquetanuck Cove Preserve

Chairman Piszczek will have the CAC recommend the Village Plan be extended to the Cove.

k) Avalonia Land Conservancy – Doolittle Land Acquisition

Chairman Piszczek met with 1st Selectwoman, finance Board and Planning & Zoning. Having the property tested for contamination was discussed. Chairman Piszczek thought if Avalonia did not have concerns then the Town shouldn't be concerned either.

Chairman Piszczek noted that there has never been any activity on the property that would cause contamination.

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

Pat Monahan not present, but emailed her report;

Good Evening

I wanted to send in a report about Paddles on the water.

August was fun with a lot of youngsters on the paddle.

September was canceled due to low attendance.

October is listed with the Last Green Valley Walktober activities. So we are hoping for a better turnout.

The report to the Preston Community Foundation is due by the end of the month and has been submitted.

I have also been working with Kevin Job of DEEP to get a more accurate map of the fish pathway.

Thank you

Pat

9. New Business

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

L. Crary spoke with the 1st Selectwoman. The 1st Selectwoman will find out how many residents currently take the exemption.

b) LOTCIP Grant – Poquetanuck Village Traffic Calming Plan

CAC members looked over maps/plans

c) Pumpkin Program

Chairman Piszczek emailed Diane Hanson at Preston Plains and asked if her class would like pumpkins for an art project, but he has not heard back from her yet.

d) Cannabis Regulation

Chairman Piszczek thought the moratorium should be extended.

The CAC had no comment and did not feel the Commission would have anything to do with this.

10. Meanderings


L. Crary has been looking into raising the amount for the tax exemption for farm equipment. He will write up an ordinance for an increase to \$200,000.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

CAC

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roberta Charpentier".

Roberta Charpentier
Preston Recording Secretary