

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 6:30 P.M.**

The Conservation Commission was held in person and by telephone conference call on Tuesday September 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. for the purposes of holding a regular meeting on the following matters.

Members of the public were invited to join this meeting by telephone conference call or in person in Town Council Chambers, Berlin Town Hall, 240 Kensington Road, Berlin, CT.

TELEPHONE CALL-IN NUMBER: 9-1-701-802-5317

Access Code: 847264#

MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Delorenzo, Chairman, Guy Hoffman, Vice Chairman, Carol Goldberger, Rob Ramsey, Thomas Heisler, Joe Mazza, Mary Kathryn Larose, Alternate, Karen Pagliaro Alternate

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karl Lewis

STAFF LIAISON

Maureen Giusti

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Delorenzo called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

None

CORRECTION TO AGENDA – Minutes for approval – July 14, 2020

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Ramsey moved to approve the July 14, 2020 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Heisler passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Planning and Zoning Commission review items

1. The Military Experience Museum – The Commission recommends signage as to delineate the property from both sides for participants at facility and hikers and people that use trails near the property. Commissioner Ramsey made a motion to accept the endorsements submitted by the chairman with modification to read "... *may* be inconsistent with the POCD..."; additional comment on signage and further noting concern over discharge of firearms within the MR-1 residential zone, and recommendation that relocation of the existing trail to adjacent public parcels be pursued, seconded by Commissioner Heisler, passed unanimously.
2. Alteration of required buffer for DeCormier Woods Subdivision, off Ice Pond Lane & Main St EB
The Commission noted the open space is not Town land but owned by the homeowners association; the developer seems to have made a mistake in not recognizing the limitations on a buffer, and a property owner can otherwise improve or clear the area but without structures, but encourages existing buffers to remain in place to protect from encroachment into open space. Staff noted the engineer represented that the other (adjacent) lots subject to the buffer have a different geometry and a request to modify their buffers is not anticipated as they should not have a similar conflict with the approved tree line.

3. Submission for reapproval of Progressive Development's site plans and special permits on the subdivision on Deming Road (adjacent to Gills garage). No Comment.

OLD BUSINESS

USE OF TOWN LANDS (Hatchery Brook Community Garden) Maureen Giusti reported that she has had a couple requests for late fall gardening plots for late season planting. There was concern by the town for maintenance this late in the season. Alternate Pagliaro noted that allowing late planting would provide maintenance of the overgrown plots. Several commissioners noted that the rules of the garden regarding the end-of-season date and no guarantee of obtaining the same plot next year should be noted to the applicants.

Commissioner Ramsey made a motion to allow planting of the vacant plots for the autumn/late season planting after application with no fee Commissioner Mazza seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chairman DeLorenzo noted that wording on plot plans reflecting the limits on conservation or buffer areas should be added and obvious to assist in making homeowners aware of any constraints on their property.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ramsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm, seconded by Commissioner Heisler passed unanimously.

Sincerely,

Marlo Thomas Matassa
The Recording Secretary