

**TOWN OF GRANBY  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
APRIL 8, 2025  
(Subject to Approval)**

**PRESENT:** David Desiderato, Will Madsen, Kara Marshall, Kent McCord, Zachary Donais, Jim Szipszky, Andrew Small

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Peggy Larue, Lee Shaw

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Kara Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peggy Larue and Lee Shaw both sent a letter to the Town Manager regarding the farm property on Barndoor Hills. K. Marshall noted in the future, she will share similar correspondence with the commission.

L. Shaw reviewed the point of her letter and noted she received a response and although she agreed with some of it, she would like to know ahead of time what the farmer will be spraying, as well as what he is spraying on the other properties he leases from the town.

In her letter, Peggy Larue noted she would like to see the farmer do the right thing going forward. She believes the town should void the current lease, provide the farmer a two-year lease and give him a chance. She would like to know what is being sprayed ahead of time and the town to be proactive.

K. Marshall will forward both letters commission members.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 11, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

Jim Szipszky noted his last name was misspelled several times throughout the minutes. ON A MOTION by D. Desiderato, seconded by A. Small, the minutes of March 11, 2025 were approved as corrected.

**4. BARNDOR HILLS FARMLAND**

- K. Marshall contacted Heather Lombardo, Chairman of the Agricultural Commission and plans to attend their meeting tomorrow. They may not have a quorum. If so, Heather will let Kara know and Kara will pass the information on to this commission if anyone had planned on attending.
- Z. Donais noted he is glad the town is receptive and willing to give the farmer another chance. He will also suggest the farmer use IPM (Integrated Pest Management) regarding pesticide use. He also pointed out tobacco is a pesticide-needy crop.
- D. Desiderato likes the town's response but believes it does not go as far as some would like. He would also like the commission to join voices with the neighbors.

- J. Szipszky would like to see the Notice of Violation and the response of the farmer and the town. Z. Donais stated if the Notice is out yet, it does fall under FOI. As the complainant, L. Shaw should be the one to request it.
- K. Marshall will reach out to Mike Walsh to see if the Town has a copy of the notice and she will keep the commission members updated if the Agricultural Commission Meeting is cancelled tomorrow.
- J. Szipszky noted the First Selectman is planning to attend next month's meeting. Some things to discuss with him include Integrated Pest Management, request farmer to provide a plan upfront regarding pesticides, signage/notification of pesticide use for neighbors who are near the property, etc.

## **5. COMPOSTING UPDATES**

- W. Madsen noted he has been in contact with Charlie of Blue Earth and he would like him to attend the September library talk with him.
- He has not heard back from M. Gould.
- The participation of 50 households is needed to participate in Blue Earth.

## **6. ENERGY CONSERVATION INITIATIVES UPDATES**

- K. McCord has sent a request to the Town Manager to meet with him and would like some other commission members to join him.
- K. Marshall noted Eversource has energy efficiency programs for municipal buildings and schools less than 20,000 square feet.

## **7. SUSTAINABLE CT UPDATES**

- K. Marshall reported there currently are not any updates regarding Sustainable CT. She will ask M. Fiorentino if the Town wants to continue with recertification or Silver.
- D. Desiderato reported he gets emails from Sustainable CT regarding programs they have.

## **8. LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

- September: W. Madsen
- Zack is unavailable in May to discuss the wildflower meadow and that board is currently very busy.
- D. Desiderato will discuss invasives in October.
- J. Szipszky will reach out to Holly regarding a McLean focused topic for November.
- D. Desiderato noted he would like to keep the name "Conservation Conversations."

## **9. INVASIVES**

- D. Desiderato noted the next invasives will be this Saturday and there will be another invasives article in The Drummer.
- A community service day of working on invasives will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Stony Hill Village.

## **10. Meeting Topics for May 13, 2025**

- Barndoor Hills Farm Property
- Discussion with Mark Fiorentino regarding Sustainable CT (Where are We Going?)
- Composting
- Energy Conservation
- Possible In-Persson Meeting in the Future?

## **11. FINAL COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

- D. Desiderato noted The Drummer printed last month's minutes in the April edition. He was curious how they would have gotten them and can they go out as a draft since they have not yet been approved. K. Kane explained the minutes are not a "draft" but need to go to the Town Clerk and posted on the Town website within 48 hours of the meeting.

## **12. ADJOURN**

**ON A MOTION BY** K. McCord, seconded by D, Desiderato, the commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kane  
Recording Secretary