

**TOWN OF GRANBY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2024**

PRESENT: David Desiderato, Zach Donais, Mindy Gould, Kara Marshall, Kent McCord

ABSENT: David Roberts

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Mindy Gould confirmed a quorum and called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public present.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

D. Desiderato noted at the last meeting he reported 376 hours of volunteer labor went into invasives action in 2023. The minutes did not accurately reflect this statistic was specific to 2023. On a motion by D. Desiderato, seconded by Z. Donais, the minutes were approved as corrected.

4. SUSTAINABLE CT – WHAT’S NEXT

- At the previous meeting commission members discussed what they would like to focus on as they move forward with Sustainable CT. In K. McCord’s absence, it was suggested he could focus on solar energy and electric vehicles. He noted he will give this consideration and will provide an update at the next meeting.
- M. Gould explained the commission is eligible to recertify in three years but can only do so if progress is made regarding affordable housing.
- D. Desiderato will continue with invasives and noted there are three more areas for consideration. One is to create a plan and train municipal staff regarding invasives species on town property.
- Z. Donais noted at the last meeting it was decided additional involvement is needed to either recertify or to achieve a higher level of accreditation. He created a post regarding composting on the commission’s Facebook page and shared it with the Granby Living FB page in the hope of drawing more people to meetings. When speakers are scheduled to attend a commission meeting, he will post that as well.
- M. Gould spoke to Sustainable CT regarding ways to obtain a grant to assist with composting. She has two contacts at Sustainable CT who are willing to come to next month’s meeting. They suggested getting the schools involved and M. Gould would like to speak with Barkhamsted and East Granby to see if they are interested in going in on crowd funding. Sustainable CT will match the donations. M. Gould will let her contacts at Sustainable CT know the commission would like them to attend the next meeting and will provide them with specifics.
- M. Gould reported she submitted an article on composting to The Drummer. She also spoke to Emma at Holcomb Farm who would like to get involved with the commission. She is interested in creating an orchard at the farm and M. Gould believes that would fit in well with Sustainable CT.

5. BUSINESS FOOD WASTE

- M. Gould noted she submitted an article on composting to The Drummer and she also spoke to Carol Hulbert who is interested in getting assistance from DEEP regarding composting. Z. Donais will look into this at DEEP.

6. INVASIVE SPECIES

Z. Donais contacted Abby Kenyon regarding an invasives ordinance. He agreed to provide her with information concerning what other towns are doing and will include some of the language they have used. She agreed to share this with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

7. MEETING TOPICS FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2024

- Sustainable CT Speakers
- Discussion regarding the specifics of composting with schools, including East Granby and Barkhamsted
- Scheduling Peoples Action for Clean Energy (PACE) attendance at a future Meeting
- Update on D. Roberts Conversation with Canton regarding their Composting Program
- Update on Invasives regarding Planning & Zoning (Z. Donais)
- Discussion regarding a Composting Site and Possible Blue Earth Pick Up Site at the Transfer Station

8. FINAL COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- D. Desiderato noted the invasives project for this weekend will most likely be cancelled due to the weather. He will also submit an invasives article for the March edition of The Drummer.
- D. Desiderato inquired if there is an update on any additional commission members. There was none.
- D. Desiderato also inquired if the Commission's past Drummer articles have been added to their webpage. K. Kane confirmed they were.
- Z. Donais will share the draft document regarding invasives with the commission before he forwards it to A. Kenyon.
- M. Gould will reach out to Canton and East Granby regarding their composting efforts.

ADJOURN

ON A MOTION BY K. McCord, seconded by D. Desiderato, the commission voted to adjourn at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kane
Recording Secretary