

Commission on Conservation & Agriculture



Chairperson	Bob Daniels	
Vice-Chair	Evan Peterson	
Members	Kate Miller	Jane Brawerman
	Barbara Schukoske	Daniel Penney
	William Harris	Diana Martinez
	Vacant	Vacant
Alternates	Vincent Senatore	William Wilson
	Vacant	
Staff	James Sipperly, Environmental Planner	
	Corinne Milardo, Administrative Assistant	

REGULAR MEETING Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, January 20, 2026
TIME: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was held in person in Room 208, Municipal Building and via WebEx.

In person attendance: Commissioners: Bob Daniels, Evan Peterson, Barbara Schukoske, Daniel Penney, William Harris.

Public: Lionel, Krishna Winston.

WebEx Attendance: Commissioners: Jane Brawerman, Diana Martinez.

Public: Tyler Swanson, Maria Santacoloma, Chris.

Absent: Commissioners: Kate Miller, Vincent Senatore, William Wilson.

Staff in Attendance: James Sipperly, Environmental Planner
Corinne Milardo, Administrative Assistant

A. Call to Order

Chairperson B. Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

B. Accept the Agenda

Motion to accept the agenda.

Moved by B. Schukoske, seconded by E. Peterson.

Passed unanimously: 7-0.

C. Election of Officers

B. Daniels opened nominations for Chair of the Commission on Conservation and Agriculture.

D. Martinez nominated Evan Peterson for Chair, seconded by J. Brawerman.

No other nominations were made. B. Daniels asked 2 more times for nominations from the floor. Haring none, he closed the nominations.

J. Sipperly called for a vote to elect Evan Peterson as Chair of the Commission on Conservation and Agriculture.

Passed unanimously: 7-0.

B. Daniels called for a nomination for Vice Chair of the Commission on Conservation and Agriculture.

B. Schukoske nominated Bob Daniels, seconded by D. Penney after asking 1 more time. No other nominations were made.

B. Daniels called for a vote to elect Bob Daniels as Vice Chair of the Commission on Conservation and Agriculture.

Passed unanimously: 7-0.

B. Daniels called for a nomination for Secretary of the Commission on Conservation and Agriculture.

B. Schukoske nominated James Sipperly, seconded by B. Daniels. No other nominations were made.

B. Daniels called for a vote to elect James Sipperly as Secretary of the Commission on Conservation and Agriculture.

Passed unanimously: 7-0.

D. Public Forum

Krishna Winston, Chair of the Sustainability Commission for the City of Middletown, invited the conservation commission members to attend the February 5th meeting for an informal discussion regarding RiverCOG creating a regional waste authority.

Chris, via WebEx, expressed his concerns in regards to the proposed Animal Ordinance revisions regarding keeping chickens.

Lionel, who lives on Tryon Street talked about the animal ordinance and his experience with roosters and the PD.

E. Approval of Minutes

1. October 21, 2025

E. Peterson read into the record, K. Miller's revisions for the October 21st minutes.

The commission would like time to review the minutes.

Motion to table the October 21st and December 16th minutes.

Moved by B. Schukoske, seconded by W. Harris

Passed unanimously: 7-0.

F. Request for Comment

1. Urban Act Grant – Central CT Loop

J. Sipperly reported that this was filed and submitted with the commission's endorsement.

G. Officers and Committee Reports

1. Chair's Report

i. Open Space Acquisition Fund Balance

J. Sipperly reported that there is \$76,000 that is not encumbered.

ii. Conservation Page for the Website

J. Sipperly stated that they will be more cognizant about adding updates and removing outdated or inaccurate information.

iii. Meeting with Mayor and others regarding CT State Statutes for Farmers

B. Daniels reported that he met with the Mayor and other city officials to discuss if the city would like to adopt these statutes. B. Daniels also reported that the State reevaluated the P490 lands.

J. Sipperly added that these changes will start on January 19, 2026.

J. Brawerman made a point of order that E. Peterson should be running the meeting since he was elected as Chair.

2. Agriculture Committee

J. Brawerman reported that she is following up on testing for pesticides on the Randolph Road property the city would like to lease for agricultural use.

J. Sipperly clarified that it's the land near Zoar's Pond. A lease agreement has been drafted but it hasn't been implemented yet.

3. Outreach Committee

i. Conservation Corner Update

J. Sipperly reported that he spoke to Cassandra Day to resurrect the conservation corner. C. Day will get back to J. Sipperly.

4. Open Space Management Committee

i. Open Space Signage

J. Sipperly reported that this is in the works to add five signs.

ii. Open Space Priorities

J. Sipperly stated that they need to know what properties need management or maintenance. They've discussed previously having members visit certain properties and report on what needs to be worked on.

J. Brawerman commented that all properties need at least invasive species management.

J. Sipperly reported that the Wilcox RFP will be a priority. They'll discuss it at the next meeting.

iii. Trail Maintenance

J. Sipperly stated that there is nothing new to report.

5. Open Space Acquisition Committee

J. Brawerman commented that the commission should start thinking about priorities for acquisition. There should be a list.

E. Peterson suggested also listing open space properties that need maintenance over the next ten years.

G. Old Business

i. Trail Guide Update

E. Peterson reported that he received maps from Marek Kozikowski. E. Peterson also received a copy of the old trail guide. They're looking to see what they can add to the existing maps. E. Peterson will meet with K. Miller and D. Martinez on the Outreach Committee.

ii. Red Maple Swamp Update

J. Sipperly reported they have a proposed survey.

iii. CCA 2025 Annual Report

C. Milardo said that she will send the report out to everyone.

J. Brawerman said the commission discussed putting 2026 goals onto the report.

E. Peterson would like the year-end report and 2026 goals added to the February agenda.

iv. CT Farm Bill

H. New Business

I. Member Forum

W. Harris asked what's going on with the Chamberlain Road property

J. Sipperly responded the owner is willing to sell to the city. They need to appraise the property but they are unable to access the property. If it could be cleared, it would move us forward towards the acquisition.

B. Daniels asked when people are available for the Agriculture Committee to meet.

J. Sipperly responded that he will provide them with available dates and times.

J. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm.

Moved by D. Penney, seconded by B. Daniels.

Passed unanimously: 7-0.