

Natural Heritage, Open Space, and Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board

Regular Meeting (via Zoom/teleconference)

December 9, 2021

Minutes

Board members present: Tim Abbott, Karen Burnaska, Eric Hammerling (Co-Chair), Amy Paterson (Co-Chair), Elanah Sherman, John Triana, and Joe Welsh (all by Zoom except Elanah, who attended by phone)

DEEP representatives: Allyson Clarke, Property Agent; Andrew Hoskins, Chief of Staff; Nicole Lugli, Director, Office of Planning and Program Development

Guest: Sylvie Boucher, Sandy Breslin Conservation Fellow, Connecticut Land Conservation Council

Welcome and Introductions

Eric called the meeting to order at 10:33 AM.

Approval of November 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Amy Paterson, seconded by John Triana, the Minutes were approved pending correction of a typo.

DEEP Staff Updates:

Nicole reported that two positions in Land Acquisition have been approved and posted; the posting closes on December 12, 2021. Also approved is a paralegal position for the Office of Legal Council. In addition, Nicole reported that the Commissioner supports the hiring of a seasonal Green Plan employee.

The next grant round of applications has been received (about 18 OSWA applications, plus six UGCG submissions).

DEEP notified General Assembly members that previous OSWA Annual Reports have been posted on the website.

Nicole announced that she is retiring as of February 1, 2022. Andrew will assign a replacement as primary DEEP representative to the Review Board. Amy and Eric both commented on Nicole's many long-term contributions to the OSWA program, noting especially her collegiality and availability.

Business

Update on OSWA/UGCG Working Group:

Amy reported that the group has met five times, with another session scheduled for next week. During each of the past meetings, members have reviewed the statute section by section. Key comments and recommendations have been recorded. Amy asked if Nicole could join the next meeting, during which the group will review the statutory reference to the Charter Oak open space trust account (Section 7-131s), as well as the UGCG application. (Before the meeting, Tim will contact Judge Andrew Roraback for background information on the Charter Oak account.) The ultimate goal is to put together a memo for presentation to the full Board in January. Eric thanked Amy for all her efforts organizing the working group and remarked on the progress already made.

Green Plan:

Tabled (except for Elanah's suggestion that the Board consider establishing a working group to review the previous Green Plan and make recommendations for the next one).

Plan for 2022 Annual Report (due February 15):

Tabled

Public Comment

No comment

Adjournment

On a motion from Amy, seconded by Tim, the meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Elanah Sherman, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday, January 13, 2022, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM