

Commission on Conservation & Agriculture



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|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Chairperson | Brian Gartner | |
| Vice-Chair | Bob Daniels | Michael Maier |
| Members | Michael Thomas | Kate Miller |
| | Jane Brawerman | |
| | David Bauer | |
| | Barbara Schukoske | |
| | Kristen Rzasa | |
| | Ellen Lukens | |
| Alternates | | |
| Staff | James Sipperly, Environmental Planner | |

REGULAR MEETING Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, June 20, 2023

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was held online and in person in Room 208, Municipal Building. The public had access to the meeting by:

1. Going to <https://webex.com> and joining the meeting using the appropriate meeting number and password
2. Launching the WebEx application and joining the meeting using the appropriate meeting number and password
Via telephone at 1-408-418-9388 and the appropriate access code

Webinar Number/Access Code: 2331 577 9589 **Webinar Password:** Middletown **Panelist Password:** openspace

In attendance: Commissioners: Brian Gartner, Bob Daniels, Mike Thomas, Barbara Schukoske, Kate Miller, Kristen Rzasa
Staff in Attendance: James Sipperly, Environmental Planner.

Public In attendance: Dave Schroder, Blue Moon

A. Call to Order

Chairperson B. Gartner called the meeting to order at 7:15pm

B. Accept the Agenda

Motion: To add the election of officers to the agenda made by Kristen Rzasa, passed unanimously.

B. Gartner opens nominations.

Chairman

B. Gartner & B Daniels are both nominated for Chairman.

B. Daniels wins the nomination.

Vice Chairman

B. Gartner & Mike Thomas are both nominated for Vice Chairman.

B. Gartner wins the nomination.

Vice Chairman Gartner excuses himself from the meeting at 7:30pm.

Motion: to continue with hybrid meetings, made by Kristen Rzasa, seconded by Mike Thomas, motion passed.

F. Officers and Committee Reports

1. Trails Committee

ATV activity should be addressed with Middletown Police

2. Agriculture Committee

i. Ag Program/Grant

Discussion held regarding monies still available for distribution for Ag grant. Team believes that \$25,000 still available.
Suggestion by Jane and Kate is to parcel out by up to \$5,000 increments to provide more opportunities to people. Will discuss

process further with Marek and Jim and add to agenda for next meeting. Commission would like to review RFP language for possible feedback. Need RFP language from Marek/Jim.

3. Outreach Committee

i. Conservation Corner update

Bob to check with Judy to see where this was left.

4. Open Space Management Committee

Eric Hansen no longer involved in original capacity. Committee to reach out to Jim on submitting proposal for assessments. Mike M. was contact with Eric.

G. Old Business

1. Trail Mapping Update

Trail Mapping on hold for now. Review proposal for electronic files for trail guides. Pat Rush, Graphic Designer.

2. Proposed Eagle Scout Projects

Will discuss Eagle Scout projects with Jim when he is back at next meeting.

H. New Business

1. Proposed right to Farm Ordinance

Kristen asked that Right to Farm Ordinance be tabled to next meeting.

2. Proposed Livestock and Poultry Ordinance

Livestock and Poultry Ordinance also tabled until next meeting. No one familiar with it.

3. Future Maintenance of Open Space Parcels

Really need to push BOE/City on VoAg land lab. No movement. This should be top of list priority for this commission. Jane also wants us to focus/pursue promoting more agriculture activities in urban areas. Only one active community garden. Commission should prioritize items of most importance.

4. Other

Need to add committee assignments to next agenda – New members, members leaving, etc. Also, add topic for clarification on what activities/items are eligible for bond money.

I. Member Forum

Suggestion that minutes and documents be sent earlier prior to meetings

J. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:44. Kristen made motion to approve. Mike M. seconded.