

**Columbia Conservation and Agriculture Commission  
Special Meeting Thursday, January 4, 2024  
7:00 PM BECKISH SENIOR CENTER**

**Draft Minutes – Submitted by Tom McGrath**

- Call to order: **7pm**
- Roll Call – **Tom McGrath, Ann Dunnack, Susan Mitchell, Chris Tolsdorf**
- Approval of Meeting Minutes 11-08-2023 – **Approved unanimously**
- Audience of Citizens **None**
- New Business
  - Election of Officers **Reappointment of Ann as Chair, Tom as Secretary**
  - Right to Farm Signs **Tom will meet with Mark Walter to pick appropriate placement**
  - Light Pollution: effects on wildlife (Chris Tolsdorf) – **Chris has a prior article for Columbia Views that he will resubmit**
  - Trail Crew **Tom – no update**
  - Budget 2024-5 – **A lengthy discussion was held on budget with current recommendations on the following page which would have the Net effect of reducing the budget by \$700 from \$13,995 to \$13,295**
    - Decrease: Contracted Services from \$2800 to \$0**
    - Increase: Postage from \$0 to \$500**
    - Grants from \$2000 to \$3000**
    - Printing from \$0 to \$600**
  - Affordable Senior Housing – **Need to review of new PZ and regulations**
  - Storm Drains – **24 drains are identified as flowing into Columbia Lake. 1 near Erdoni Road appears to have contaminants to monitor and correct.**
  - LMAC – **60 Geese on the lake now because of no ICE. May be and issue to refer to CT DEEP.**
- Old Business
  - Steward Reports:
    - Mint Brook – **no report**
    - Szegda Farm – **trails in good shape**
    - Mono Pond State Park – **trails in good shape**
    - Hop River Mills – **no report**
    - Agriculture Report – **In 2023 over 70 inches of rain**
- Other Business - **none**
- Adjournment: **8:20pm**

**CCAG Budget 2023-2024 \$13,995**

10	Salaries & Wages	\$3600	- Conservation Maintainer
110	Postage	\$0	
300	General Supplies	\$4420	
420	Grants & Subsidies	\$2000	- Friends of Mono Pond
500	Professional/Tech	\$500	
515	Contracted Service	\$2800	- Hop River Preserve ground penetrating radar
520	Printing	\$0	
720	Professional Dues	\$175	
750	Conference/seminar	\$300	
770	Transportation	\$200	

**CCAG Budget 2024-2025 \$13,295 – (\$700 less than prior year)**

10	Salaries & Wages	\$3600	- Conservation Maintainer
110	Postage	<b>\$500</b>	
300	General Supplies	\$4420	
420	Grants & Subsidies	<b>\$3000</b>	- Friends of Mono Pond, Salmon River Watershed
500	Professional/Tech	\$500	
515	Contracted Service	<b>\$0</b>	
520	Printing	<b>\$600</b>	
720	Professional Dues	\$175	
750	Conference/seminar	\$300	
770	Transportation	\$200	