

**Columbia Conservation and Agriculture Commission
Regular Meeting**

Thursday, May 2, 2024 7:00 PM Conference Room

Draft Minutes

(submitted by Tom McGrath)

- **Roll Call** – Tom McGrath, Ann Dunnack
Absent – Chris Tolsdorf, Jason Arico, Susan Mitchell
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes 03-07-2024** – Tom motioned to approve, Ann seconded, approved unanimously
- **Audience of Citizens** - none
- **New Business**
 - **Sustainable CT** – kickoff meeting May 20 at 6pm TOC conference room
 - **Farm Brochure** – no update
 - **Right to Farm Signs** – sample signs were ordered and received. Additional signs will be ordered, total 11 small signs, 5 larger signs. Mark Walter would like to post the signs on town roads first near farms and then later post on state roads
 - **Trail Crew/New Recreation Director** – Jake Plitt – on 4/25 Tom took Jacob for a tour of Columbia which included: Rec Park, Utley Hill, Air Line Trail, Hop River Trail, Mono Pond State Park, Szegda Farm, Hop River Historic Site

Trail Crew – still working on using Rec. Department and possibly the facebook groups Bike Walk Columbia and Friends of Mono Pond to reach out to the public
- **Old Business**
 - **Steward Reports:** Tabled until next meeting
 - **Mint Brook**
 - **Szegda Farm**
 - **Mono Pond State Park**
 - **Hop River Mills**
 - **Agriculture Report**

- **Information/Announcements**
 - **Stem Evening at HWPorter School: Sustainability** – Very good event with participation from Friends of Mono Pond State Park, Joshua’s Trust and the Columbia Historical Society tabling together
 - **Report on CLCC Conference** – Ann felt it was an excellent opportunity for networking and education.
- **Other Business** – Tom Provided the following information about grants and events

2024 - \$4,000,000 GRANTS for trails near or in Columbia

Air Line State Park Trail / CTC&D \$75,000 CT Trails Grant

<https://ctrcd.org/airlinetrail/>

<https://portal.ct.gov/office-of-the-governor/news/press-releases/2023/05-2023/governor-lamont-announces-state-grants-for-50-recreational-trails>

Hop River State Park Trail \$3,600,000 + \$44,000 CT Trails Grant

<https://ctmirror.org/2024/03/25/ct-government-funding-bills-projects/>

Coventry & Columbia received \$3.6 million for state park trail construction.

Willimantic Whitewater Park \$500,000 EPA grant

<https://www.housedems.ct.gov/node/24632>

<https://willimanticwhitewater.org/>

Mono Pond Master Plan – TPL/IMBA \$76,000 CT Trails Grant

<https://portal.ct.gov/office-of-the-governor/news/press-releases/2023/05-2023/governor-lamont-announces-state-grants-for-50-recreational-trails>

EVENTS

FOMPSP trails event June 1 and 2

<https://trailsday.org/?city=columbia>

East Coast Greenway TPL Mono Pond Event June 8

<https://support.greenway.org/a/ride-east-2024>

- **Adjournment:** 7:45