

**Berkshire Conservation District**  
**Agenda for Wednesday, January 4, 2023**  
**Supervisor Meeting**  
**4:00 pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87599054766>

**Join By Phone: (301) 715-8592**

**Webinar ID: 875 9905 4766**

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via Zoom Webinar. Members of the public are welcome to speak only during the Public Comment Period. If you wish to make a comment, please use the “raise hand” feature. Please state your name and the town you reside in for the record. All meetings of the Berkshire Conservation District are open to the public and are subject to Massachusetts Open Meeting Laws. This meeting was recorded.

**Present:** Supervisors: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), David Ellis (Treasurer), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Ned Kirchner, Dottie Lou Kratt (Plant Sale Coordinator)  
Program Administrator: Cynthia Grippaldi

Public members Michele L. Vivian Orłowski were present.

Attendees from the Hampden/Hampshire Conservation District

1. Call to order and Determination of Quorum  
The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm and there was a quorum.
2. Public Comment Period  
No members of the public wished to speak.
3. Report from NRCS Representative  
Sylvia Munez-Gaya sent her report to Cynthia for our records. Ron suggested putting NRCS acronyms on our website with links. David and Ned asked if Sylvia knew of how much tillage there was in Berkshire county and she said she will look into it.
4. District Administrator Updates  
Cynthia reported that we received our October 2022 reimbursement.
5. Secretary’s Report – Submitted by Donna Kittredge
  - a. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes  
David motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes, second by Ned. All in favor.
6. Treasurer’s Report – Submitted by David Ellis
  - a. Review and approval of Treasurer's Report  
See the December 2022 Treasurer’s Report. For the record our Basic and Innovative Grant has not been awarded yet and we have used all of last year’s allotment.  
Ron motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report, second by Ned. All in favor.
7. Program Status
  - a. FY23 Basic and Innovative Proposal - Regenerative Farming Best Practices Initiative

Adam shared the Initiative goals and outcomes of the grant. We hope to increase use of the no-till and add in soil testing and consultation this year. We are looking to understand the farmer more. We will deliver at least one online event. We will host our Native Plant Sale again in September. We welcome back Dottie Lou Kratt as our Plant Sale Coordinator.

- b. HSAP No-Till Program Improvement Proposal  
We want to hire a coordinator to do direct outreach to get this program on a recurring cycle. We were selected to receive \$50,000 for the HSAP that we submitted. The funding is for unrestricted use. We plan to use it for the no-till program.
- c. FY22 Pollinator program — Armory signage, pollinator-friendly communities update. We will have a sign made up for the Armory in the spring. Ron will continue a dialogue with West Stockbridge to gauge their interest in becoming a Pollinator Friendly Town.

## 8. New Business

- a. Adam would like Cynthia, as our District administrator to be a signatory on our Greylock account. Adam made a motion to include Cynthia as a signatory for the Greylock account, second by Ned. All in favor.
- b. FY23 Basic and Innovative Grant Update  
There were no updates.
- c. Fall 2023 Plant Sale  
Lou agreed to work with us again as Plant Sale Coordinator. Adam will update her contract. Ned suggested we formulate a timeline for adding a spring 2024 plant sale. Adam made a motion to give Lou an updated proposal that includes largely the same language, second by David. All in favor.
- d. Spring 2024 Plant Sale to be discussed at a later date
- e. HSAP grant update and critical next steps, roles of supervisor
  - i. Discuss soil conservation position details and job description  
Leon Ripley and Meghan Siudzinski from the Hampden/Hampshire Conservation District were present. Leon said they submitted their proposal for buying equipment. We discussed sharing a person to assist both districts. Cynthia made a draft listing of responsibilities for our district which would include promoting no-till, and soil sampling. Meghan said they envision an agreement with farmers for a minimum of 2 years and want to build mentor positions paying the mentors a stipend. Adam brought up the transportation of the no-till and Leon said Mike was willing to transport it to HHCD counties. HHCD hired Mathew Caras, who has a farming background, in September. He lives in Ashfield. Most of his job is talking with farmers. He will be involved in soil sampling and communications. He is working 35 hours/week. Ned asked if Mathew might be interested in full-time which could include our needs.
  - ii. Assign lead supervisor for drafting job description  
Cynthia wrote a draft for a seasonal part-time contractual position. She will circulate it for review.
  - iii. Discuss subsidies and outcomes
  - iv. Discuss HHCD plans and possible shared conservationist position
- f. Adam Galambos, our chairperson, will be on temporary leave from duties until April. During this time, Ron Kujawski will be acting chair.

## 9. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

## 10. Supervisor/Staff Comments and/or Announcements

There were no comments or announcements.

11. Adjournment

Ron made a motion to adjourn at 6:05pm, second by Ned. All in favor.

12. Executive Session - District Administrator compensation and performance review

- a. Ned made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the district administrator's performance over the past calendar year and compensation for the next calendar year. Second by David.

- b. Roll call vote to enter into Executive Session

Ron made a motion to enter discussion, second by Ned. Roll call vote was taken. Discussion took place. At 6:45pm, David motioned to close the Executive Session, second by Ned. All in favor.