

TOWN OF NEWINGTON  
**OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**  
Special Meeting

October 19, 2022 - 6:30 P.M.

Town Council Chamber, Room 103 - Town Hall, 200 Garfield St.  
This meeting will be presented as a Zoom Webinar/Hybrid Meeting.  
Information on how to attend will be posted on the Town website at:  
<https://www.newingtonct.gov/virtualmeetingschedule>

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**AGENDA**

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. Approval Of Minutes July 28, 2022 Minutes
    - Documents:
      - [OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE JULY 28, 2022 MINUTES.PDF](#)
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Speaker Dennis Kern From Berlin Land Trust
    - Documents:
      - [DENNIS KERN RECORD JOURNAL PRESS RELEASE.PDF](#)
  - B. Review Past Actions
  - C. Discuss Future Open Space Strategies
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS
- VIII. ADJOURN

**NEWINGTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE  
Special Meeting Minutes  
July 28, 2022**

Chairman Bernadette Conway called the regular meeting of the Newington Open Space Committee to order at 6:30 pm in Town Council Chambers, Room 103 of the Newington Town Hall, 200 Cedar Street, Newington, CT.

Commissioners Present:

Bernadette Conway  
Gail Budrejko  
Sandra Austin Goldstein  
Gia Pascarelli

Commissioners Absent:

Mitch Page

Town Staff Present:

Renata Bertotti, Town Planner  
Erik S. Hinckley, Asst. Town Planner / ZEO  
Sonia Richmond, Grant Specialist  
Keith Chapman, Town Manager

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
NEWINGTON CT  
2022 AUG -3 AM 11:55  
Town Clerk

**I. ROLL CALL**

The presence of the above members was noted.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Pascarelli made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Austin, and approved unanimously.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. July 14, 2022

Commissioner Pascarelli made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Austin, and approved unanimously.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Prioritization of Open Space Properties for Potential Land Acquisition

Town Planner Bertotti and Asst. Planner Hinckley made a presentation of an updated prior list that was drafted by the OSC. The list was for potential targeted properties to be acquired by the Town. That list of various properties was discussed amongst the commission members and Town staff. Town Manager Chapman answered questions about the acquisition process and Grant Specialist Richmond discussed potential grant opportunities that may be available. The Commission identified a few different pieces of property for possible acquisition and asked that the Town Manager to discuss with the Town Council to get a clearer direction. Town staff will provide the OSC with an updated list in the near future for their review and input. The Commission decided to meet again at their regularly scheduled meeting in October.

b. Requested POCD Reference Link

The requested link to the POCD document was provided to the Commission members.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Commissioners Budrejko and Conway commented on the updated list.

**IX. Adjourn**

Commissioner Austin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Pascarelli, and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik S. Hinckley  
Asst. Town Planner / ZEO

# Dennis Kern: Dedicated to conservation and community values



A view of Lamentation Mountain.

May 15, 2020 02:32PM

A founding member of the Berlin Land Trust and its president since 1997, Attorney Dennis Kern has earned a reputation as a dedicated, passionate and determined advocate for the conservation of open space and wetlands in the town of Berlin.

Under Dennis' leadership, the all-volunteer Berlin Land Trust has protected 396 acres including, most recently, 47 pristine acres on Lamentation Mountain located in Middletown. He has also ensured the organization's active participation in local land use matters impacting the environment, open space and wetlands preservation (including the contentious Tilcon Quarry application).

Dennis has attended many meetings for the local Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, as well as the Planning and Zoning Commission for selective applications, personally evaluating the environmental impacts of these applications.

Among his many other contributions to the town, Dennis assisted in the preservation of valuable properties including the former Meribrite Girl Scout Camp (45 acres) and the Dr. Chotkowski property (70 acres), which are now connected and include a trail system with other open space in the Hatchery Brook Conservation Area.

Dennis truly serves as a model for the positive difference that one committed individual can make in the community. For the complete narrative of the award nomination with Dennis' accomplishments, please visit [ctconservation.org](http://ctconservation.org).

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council, of which the Berlin Land Trust is a member, is the service provider and state association of Connecticut's 130+ land trusts, and bestows the Katchen Coley Award to one recipient each year who demonstrates outstanding community service.

CLCC thanks Dennis Kern for his commitment to conservation and community values.