

Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Helen Weingart, at 3:05. Present were Dave Stone and Leslie Ricklin
2. Dave moved, Leslie seconded to approve the special meeting minutes of March 24, 2026. Motion carried.
3. No audience for citizens
4. Additions to the agenda:
 - a. Dave moved, Leslie seconded to add approving the minutes for the April 8, 2026, minutes. Motion carried and also carried for approving the minutes.
 - b. Dave moved to add discussion and possible action on the Sidney Waxman collection of trees at UCONN to the agenda. Leslie seconded. Motion carried. This will be added as 7e under New Business.
5. Budget report:
 - a. Arboretum budget: General fund: \$0; Restricted fund: \$6,588.61
 - b. Pollinator Pathway budget: Restricted budget \$13,375.00
 - c. Fee for Final Pathway plan. Each member will report on his/her volunteer hours at each meeting. Helen will ask Lisa for the cost of completing the Earthtones plan as submitted.
6. Continuing Business:
 - a. Determine plaque replacement: Bert Gunn and Steve Smith plaques are still in progress. Dave will update at the next meeting.
 - b. Schedule work party to complete weeding and mulching: Dave said that he can complete what must be done.
 - c. Status of Arboretum Ordinance update: Dave will follow up with the town attorney regarding the draft.
 - d. Status of DOT permit for roadside embankment: No report
 - e. Update status of state grant: No report
7. New Business:
 - a. Review Pathway plan from Earthtones: Helen presented the revised plan. Members discussed it and had some questions for Helen to ask Lisa: 1. Can we integrate some echinacea as some residents asked about this. 2. What plants are near the Indian Grass on the plan? It is not labeled. On the whole, members expressed excitement and great interest in the plan.
 - b. Next steps for the Pathway project: Dave moved to approve the new Pollinator Pathway plan from Earthtones with some possible minor revisions. Leslie seconded. Motion Carried!**

Dave would like to move forward with preparing and mapping the site. This season, he'd like to map out and lay the pathway (except for pavers) then plant the larger

trees, shrubs, etc. on the south side of the Pathway. **The Commission agreed to buy the trees, shrubs, grasses, etc. from Earthtones.**

Road frontage: **Dave moved to proceed with planting grasses on the road frontage for up to \$600.00. Leslie seconded. Motion carried.**

The Commission agreed to buy 3 copies of the Pollinator plan printed on blueprint paper for Dave's use and to buy 2 copies of the first sheet (to add to the sheet we have) to be displayed at the Senior Center, Library, and the Town Hall.

- c. Fundraising plans: pending to hear about the state grant.
 - d. Discuss plan for Chaplin Day, Sept. 19, 2026: 1. Helen suggested a future plan about offering a Memorial Walk for Memorial Day where families and loved ones who have donated trees for them can come and reminisce, picnic, etc. The members were very taken with this idea to offer another year.
2. For this Chaplin Day, the Commission hopes to create a Welcome brochure for the Chaplin Bicentennial Arboretum with a map and information about the Arboretum and Pollinator Pathway.
 - e. Discussion about the Sidney Waxman collection of cultivars at UCONN. First Selectman James Harrington joined the discussion about this collection which is in danger of being cut down. **Dave moved, Leslie seconded to explore the possibility of hosting some species of these trees if they can be moved here at UCONN's expense. Motion carried.**
8. Correspondence: none
 9. Agenda items for special meeting scheduled for May 12 at 3:00. Dave will report on the plan and Sid Waxman collection.
 10. Meeting adjourned at 5:06.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Ricklin, Secretary.