

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting of April 10, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Meeting Room #3, Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

These Minutes are Subject to Approval by the Conservation Commission

Present: Jim Ryan, Cindy Joyce, Holly Kocet, Mark Boland, Tom Philbrick

Absent: Chris Smith, Karlyn Sturmer

Staff: Dawn Fried, Clerk

Mr. Ryan opened the meeting at 6:57 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for March 28, 2017

Mr. Boland moved to approve the minutes from March 28, 2017. Ms. Kocet seconded. All in favor. The minutes from March 28, 2017 were approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Parks and Rec – Mr. Ryan reviewed a letter he wrote to Ms. Mangold dated March 31, 2017. Mr. Ryan and Ms. Kocet met with Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson from Newtown Parks and Rec Dept. They discussed the High Meadow project and how Parks and Rec will assist with the project. Parks and Rec agreed to mow the property one time in May, June and fall. They were also amenable to storing the seed and delivering it on planting day. The Conservation Commission appreciates Parks and Rec's willingness to assist with this project and looks forward to working with them in the future.

Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial – Mr. Ryan stated that the SHPMC has been discussing a possible trail connection between Treadwell Park and SAC field. The existing trails are on town property.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Earth Day April 22, 2107 – The Commission continued their discussion on Earth Day. Mr. Ryan distributed materials that will be used at the CC booth on Earth Day. The materials will consist of a Stone Bridge Preserve tri-fold handout, a High Meadow Species display board and a High Meadow aerial display board. The Commission gave their feedback and edited the information. Mr. Ryan will also be working on a High Meadow tri-fold handout that he will email to the Commission for their review. The Commission discussed the setup of the booth and the responsibilities of each Commissioner. The CC decided they will not be handing out plant plugs as previously discussed. In lieu of the plugs Ms. Joyce ordered trinkets to hand out to the children.

Web Page – The Commission will discuss the web page at the next CC meeting on April 25, 2017.

Stone Bridge Project - Mr. Ryan tried to contact Jeremy Clark regarding a Stone Bridge update but was unable to reach him. Mr. Ryan would like to invite Mr. Clark to the next CC meeting and would also like to arrange for the Commissioners to walk the Stone Bridge property.

High Meadow – Mr. Philbrick created an excel spreadsheet to compare and contrast the four High Meadow proposals. Mr. Philbrick presented the spreadsheet to the Commission and a lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. Philbrick discussed the purpose of the comparison and the benefits of the study. He explained that the first year of the study is a baseline. The Commission agreed that in order to effectively compare the estimates they would need more detailed information. Mr. Philbrick will reach out to the four candidates and ask them to provide more details regarding strategy, methodology and quantification.

Ms. Kocet passed out two signage drafts for the Commission to review regarding the “High Meadow Restoration Project”. The signs will eventually be placed along the High Meadows for the public’s information. The Commission will email their input on the signs and Mr. Ryan will have the signs printed at his office.

Native Plant Policy - Mr. Ryan would like to establish a sub-committee for the native plant policy. Mr. Philbrick offered to be part of that committee. The conversation will be continued at the next CC meeting on April 25, 2017.

TRACKING TOPICS

Trails – Mr. Ryan will reach out to Mr. Sibley regarding a presentation of the history of Al’s Trails.

MISC

The Commission discussed possible ATV use on an O.S parcel on Obtuse Road. Mr. Ryan will reach out to Mr. Sibley regarding the CC’s responsibilities on such matters.

The Commission would like an updated GIS map of the Open Space in Newtown. The map they have is from 2012. They will ask Mr. Sibley.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Joyce moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Ms. Kocet seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Fried, Clerk