

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of September 25, 2018 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: Holly Kocet, Gail Friedman, Cindy Joyce, Mike Santora, Mark Lurie, John Madzula II, Mark Boland (teleconferenced)

Staff: Robert Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning & Land Use, Dawn Fried, Clerk

Ms. Kocet opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for September 11, 2018

Under "Website" change "High Meadow study" to "scans of the samples". Ms. Joyce moved to approve the amended minutes from September 11, 2018. Ms. Friedman seconded. All in favor. The minutes from September 11, 2018 were approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Phil Hubbard, PH Architects, Mr. Mike Lillis, licensed engineer formerly of CCA and Mr. Peter Poules, licensed architect PH Architects presented drawings of the Hubbard Sanctuary property and gave an overview of the proposed temporary access over the Deep Brook Bridge. Mr. Hubbard stated that he walked the site last week with members of the Pootatuck Watershed Association and Trout Unlimited and incorporated their comments into the revised drawings. Mr. Hubbard described the installation of the silt fence which was added to the project to protect Deep Brook from siltation caused by truck traffic and rain storms. Mr. Hubbard also described the three water traps that will utilize the silt fencing and hay bales to trap the silt.

Mr. Hubbard gave an overview of the Baily Bridge which will be placed over the existing Deep Brook bridge. Mr. Hubbard also spoke about a 3-foot path on the driveway for pedestrian traffic as well as leaving the trails open for pedestrians.

Ms. Kocet was concerned that the silt fencing would fail and questioned whether hay bales can be used for reinforcement along the roadside. Mr. Lillis responded that yes, hay bales and reinforcement of extra sediment fencing will be used. Ms. Kocet also questioned how closely the project will be monitored. Mr. Hubbard stated the project will be monitored every day.

Ms. Kocet was also concerned with the spawning of the trout in October and November and questioned whether the project could start in the spring. Mr. Hubbard responded that every precaution will be taken and "there is never a good time". Mr. Hubbard stated they are being as mindful as possible and are not sparing any efforts concerning protection measures.

Mr. Boland questioned how far the water stops will be extended over the road and questioned where the water flows. Mr. Lillis responded that the water will run off the edge of the road (approx. 10 feet) and will go through the sediment fence which passes the water and traps the silt. Mr. Boland questioned whether the project was in compliance with the Town Inland Wetland regulations. Mr. Lillis stated the project has been reviewed and approved by the Inland Wetland

Commission. Mr. Sibley responded that the project meets the 2002 CT State Guidelines for Sediment and Erosion Controls and Best Management Practices.

Ms. Kocet questioned how many truckloads of stones will be brought to the site. Mr. Hubbard responded approx. 10 concrete trucks and 12 to 15 dump trucks of stone.

Mr. Fred Hurley, Director of Public Works for Newtown, described the Acrow Baily Bridge as an updated version of the WW II bridge. Mr. Hurley stated the Baily Bridge is like "an Erector set" which has two steel girders extended across the bridge that will rest above the concrete bridge with decking in-between. The Town will install the bridge which will take five to seven days and the town will dismantle the bridge. The bridge will not touch the pond, will have minimal impact to the existing bridge and each bridge is considered two separate entities.

Mr. Joe Hovious, Newtown resident and member of the Pootatuck Watershed Association (PWA), walked the site last week with Mrs. Hubbard and PH Architects. Mr. Hovious had the following concerns: the road being damaged by the truck traffic, the rain run-off, the crown on the road being diminished, the road becoming rutted-out, the contaminated water coming from the bridge, the quality of the water entering the agriculture fields, the frequency of the inspections and the three water stops not being sufficient.

Mr. Hubbard responded that he doesn't know how the road will behave. Selectman Rosenthal stated that the project will have a temporary license and can be terminated at any time. Mr. Lillis stated that more water stops will be added if needed. Mr. Hubbard stated the project is estimated to last four months and will be able to work when the ground is frozen.

After a lengthy discussion Mr. Santora moved to approve the recommendation to allow the Hubbard Sanctuary temporary access over the Deep Brook Bridge. Ms. Friedman seconded. Ms. Kocet, Mr. Boland, Mr. Lurie, Mr. Madzula all in favor. Ms. Joyce opposed. The recommendation to allow the Hubbard Sanctuary temporary access over the Deep Brook Bridge was approved.

DISCUSSION

Review WSA Water Control Plan - The Commission had a discussion with Fred Hurley, Director of Public Work in Newtown, regarding the draft of the Water Pollution Control Plan for the town. The Commission had no recommendations for changes to the draft.

Pole Bridge – Mr. Sibley reported the siltgrass and meadow were mowed, a path was cleared to the vernal pool and stones were replaced. Parks and Rec will continue to push the meadow to the property line. Mr. Lurie will try to get the trail "pinned out" on Saturday.

Permanent Conservation Table – Ms. Kocet stated there are no changes to the table and she is looking for new ideas and topics.

Miscellaneous – Ms. Joyce mentioned that Jeremy Clark was in town and that she is meeting with him at 10:00 am on Saturday for a site walk of the Stone Bridge property. Ms. Joyce explained the Stonebridge Forestry project to the Commission and was looking forward to seeing the regeneration of the property.

Mr. Sibley will review Town open space properties at the next CC meeting. Two properties mentioned were Turkey Roost and Berkshire.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Discussion of a Possible Land Acquisition

Ms. Joyce moved to begin the Executive Session at 8:30 pm for the discussion of a possible land acquisition. Ms. Friedman seconded. All in favor.

Ms. Joyce moved to close the Executive session at 8:34 pm. Ms. Friedman seconded. All in favor.

No vote was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Joyce moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Lurie seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Dawn Fried, Clerk