

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting

February 22, 2022 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, Mark Boland, Michael Ablondi, Mark Lurie, John Dixon

Staff: Rob Sibley, Deputy Director of Land Use, Dawn Fried, Clerk

Ms. Kocet opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lurie moved to approve the minutes of January 25, 2022. Mr. Ablondi seconded. All in favor. The minutes from January 25, 2022 were approved.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Flowering Seeds for Meadows

Mr. Sibley spoke with Carl from Parks and Rec. The seeds will cover 3 acres. Ms. Kocet suggested seeding the open space meadows on Shelley Road and Pole Bridge. Mr. Lurie agreed. Mr. Sibley had a conversation with the property owner who lives adjacent to the meadow on Shelley Road. The property owner was working on an invasive management project and would like the meadow seeded. Shelley Road meadow is 1 ½ acres and Pole Bridge meadow is 3 acres. Mr. Sibley stated more seed can be purchased next year, if needed. After a brief discussion, the Commission agreed the meadows on Shelley Road and Pole Bridge were good options. Mr. Sibley will reach out to Parks and Rec with the information.

Open Space off of Platts Hill Road

Mr. Sibley received an email from Newtown Bridle Lands Association (NBLA) requesting permission to clear an old trail. The trail is located on open space next to Orchard Hill. NBLA would like the trail flagged for the horses. NBLA will be cutting and clearing the trail back to its original state. Mr. Lurie stated he will be helping NBLA with the GIS part of the project. Ms. Kocet moved to approve the trail clearing. Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor. Mr. Sibley will reach out to NBLA regarding the Commission's approval.

High Meadow Study Letter

At the previous CC meeting, Mr. Sibley had mentioned that a letter should be submitted to the Board of Selectmen regarding the High Meadow study. Ms. Kocet drafted a letter for the Commission to review. The Commission discussed the letter. Ms. Kocet suggested the possibility of another study in 3 to 5 years. Ms. Kocet will add the estimate after she speaks with Bryan Connolly.

Earth Day

The Commission discussed Earth Day, April 23, 2022. They spoke about the different themes and different hand-outs they had used over the years. The Commissioners agreed to split shifts throughout the day. Mr. Sibley will bring the materials from the basement to the next meeting. The set up will include a table, tent and chairs.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dixon moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Fried