

## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

### **Regular Meeting**

August 23, 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, Will Drew, John Fung, John Dixon, Mark Lurie

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

Also in Attendance: Charles Zukowski, 4 Cornfield Ridge Road, Newtown

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Under "Miscellaneous" delete "Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) grant that was awarded to Al's Trail". Mr. Fung moved to approve the amended minutes of July 26, 2022. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor. The minutes from July 26, 2022 were approved.

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

#### **High Meadow Study Report**

Ms. Kocet spoke with Selectman Rosenthal regarding the High Meadow Study report, which he was "open to". The Conservation Commission is on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen meeting on Sept 6, 2022 to discuss the study.

#### **Educating the Public on Invasives**

Mr. Fung spoke about the QR-code stickers he created. The stickers can be mass produced and the cost per sticker is between fifty cents and one dollar. Mr. Sibley stated he can help with printing. The sticker's QR-code will link to the invasive plant page on the Conservation Commission website. The information on the website will enable the public to learn and identify invasive species. The stickers will be placed in areas the public frequent such as kiosks, trail-heads and town-owned open space parcels. The Commission thanked Mr. Fung and stated the stickers were a great idea and will be helpful to the public.

#### **Deputy Director Discussion of Open Space**

Mr. Sibley spoke about two piles of wood chips that were dumped on the side of the road on the corner of Kale Davis Road and Leopard Drive. It's an open space area that was created back in the 1950's by one of the first sub-divisions. Mr. Sibley asked the Commission what they would like to do with the wood chips. One suggestion was to spread the wood chips perhaps by a local Scout Troup. The Commission agreed that was a good suggestion. Mr. Sibley also mentioned that this area could benefit by having signage.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Mr. Fung mentioned that the Newtown Bridle Lands Association would like to attend the next Conservation Commission meeting due to the fact they use town-owned open space.

- Mr. Zukowski clarified that the grant mentioned at the last CC meeting was given to the Newtown Bike and Trail Committee (NBTC) by the National Park Service. He stated at this time the NBTC is developing an action plan for the use of grant, which includes several proposals.
- Mr. Sibley stated the CC was doing a good job with completing the evaluations of the open space parcels.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Kocet moved to begin the Executive Session at 7:14 pm to discuss the possible donation and acquisition of land. Mr. Sibley was invited. Mr. Fung seconded. All were in favor.

Executive Session ended at 7:40 pm. No action was taken.

### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fung moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Drew seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Fried