

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of June 26, 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, Karlyn Sturmer, Mark Boland, Mark Lurie, Gail Friedman

**Staff:** Dawn Fried, Clerk

Ms. Kocet opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Ms. Kocet stated that Ms. Joyce will be taking a short leave of absence.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES for June 12, 2018**

Under “High Meadow” change “plugs” to “transplants”, change “hay field” to “hay field sod” and change “golden rods” to “goldenrod”. Ms. Sturmer moved to approve the amended minutes from June 12, 2018. Ms. Friedman seconded. The minutes from June 12, 2018 were approved. All in favor.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**Parks and Rec** – Ms. Sturmer was concerned with the statement in the Parks and Rec minutes, “Mr. Rosenthal suggests a subcommittee through conservation to manage trails”. The Commissioners had a brief discussion on which group should be responsible for the Newtown trails. They agree that it should not be the Conservation Commission. They agreed it’s the purview of Parks and Rec.

Ms. Sturmer noted that Parks and Rec stated the following in the minutes of the Parks and Rec meeting of June 12, 2018, “FFH trail phase 3” and “chemically removed two invasive grass species” at Fairfield Hills. Ms. Sturmer was unsure of what these comments were regarding and asked Ms. Kocet to clarify at her meeting with Ms. Mangold.

**Inland Wetland** – Ms. Friedman made mention of the Hawleyville project.

**Board of Selectman** – Ms. Kocet made mention of the relocation of the Police Department and the easement on the Hubbard property. Ms. Kocet will ask Mr. Sibley about the easement.

**DISCUSSION**

**High Meadow Wildflower Meadow** – Ms. Kocet, Ms. Sturmer and Ms. Friedman have been busy planting at the High Meadow. They commented on the variety of wildflowers that have bloomed, the Monarch butterflies and other pollinators in the meadow. Ms. Sturmer stated that the public has been very supportive and thankful.

**Native Plant Policy** – Ms. Kocet would like to get started on a guide for native plants.

**Pole Bridge** – Mr. Lurie’s trail equipment was delivered to the Land Use office. Mr. Lurie will walk Pole Bridge next week with a GPS and decide which tools are needed. The rest of the tools will be stored in the basement. Mr. Lurie will draw up a plan for trail work.

Ms. Kocet spoke to Mr. Sibley last week about Pole Bridge. Ms. Kocet gave an overview of the conversation to the Commission. Items discussed were: brush piles, swales, cutting and clearing of trees and pipe gates for different open space properties.

**Website -** The Commission discussed adding simple trail maps to the website. Mr. Lurie will reach out to Kevin from the IT department regarding adding the maps to the website. The open space maps that were discussed are: Pole Bridge, Halfway River, Oakview and High Meadow.

**Kiosks -** The Commission also discussed having maps created for the kiosks. Ms. Sturmer will reach out to Mr. Sibley.

**Parks and Rec Discussion Regarding Trails -** Ms. Sturmer moved while the Conservation commission supports efforts to increase trails throughout Newtown's open spaces; state, private and municipal, it is not within the scope of the Conservation Commission to take primary responsibility for a subcommittee with such a recreational focus. Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor.

**Permanent Conservation Table** – Take Permanent Conservation Table off of the agenda. The next theme will be invasives. Ms. Kocet and Ms. Friedman will create an educational table with a fun questionnaire for the public to fill out. They will also have invasives on display for identification.

**Cherry Grove Trail -** At the last CC meeting Ms. Kocet stated concerns regarding horse trailers being parked on the open space fields during Newtown Bridle Lands Association's (NBLA) event. Mr. Lurie received information that the trailers will be parked on Mt. Nebo road. The Commission had a discussion on how to handle the open space and whether the CC had any control over the usage of the property. They were unsure of the easement wording and would like to research what is stated in the deed. The Commission was questioning whether they have a right to ask NBLA to clean up after the event. Ms. Kocet will reach out to Mr. Sibley.

**CC Summer Schedule -** Ms. Kocet stated that there will be one CC meeting in July and one CC meeting in August. The two dates chosen are July 24, 2018 and August 28, 2018.

**Commissioner News -** Ms. Sturmer announced that this CC meeting will be her last. Ms. Sturmer has been with the Commission for 4 years and 7 months. Ms. Sturmer stated that this CC group is hard working and productive. The Commissioners wished her well.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Friedman moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dawn Fried, Clerk