

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of September 11, 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: Holly Kocet, Cindy Joyce, Karlyn Sturmer

Absent: Chris Smith, Mark Boland, Jim Ryan, Tom Philbrick

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

Ms. Kocet opened the meeting at 7:07 pm.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Narragansett Trail

Mr. Sibley spoke about a disturbance on the open space parcel at Narragansett Trail. He showed the Commission pictures of several man-made bike jumps on the trail. The Commission assumed the dirt mounds were created for non-motorized BMX bikes. The Commission will explore options on how to handle the situation and will discuss further at the next CC meeting. Mr. Sibley suggested contacting Mark Lurie from The Trail Crew. Mr. Lurie has experience with bike trails and trails in Newtown.

COMMISSION PRIORITIES

Web Page

Ms. Joyce gave the Commission an update. Ms. Joyce stated that she hopes to have the website up and running by the end of the month. The subjects that are still in need of more content are invasive plants, native plants and wildlife. Ms. Joyce would also like introduction paragraphs written on each of these subjects to add to the beginning of their pages. Ms. Joyce is waiting for maps from Mr. Ryan to add to the website.

The Commission also discussed adding a historical aspect to the website. This would entail choosing certain properties of interest and delving in to their history. Ms. Kocet stated that she would be interested in helping on this project.

Ms. Joyce needs assistance on identifying plants. Ms. Kocet suggested reaching out to Bryan Connolly, Ph.D., who was hired to perform the one-year study of High Meadow.

Stone Bridge Recap

The Commission agreed the Stonebridge ceremony was successful and they were happy with the number of attendees. The Commission felt the project came to fruition and they accomplished their goal of creating a young forest habitat. The only component not completed is the educational component. The Commission discussed different ways to educate the public and work with the high school. They also spoke about researching educational grants.

High Meadow Update

Ms. Kocet updated the Commission on the High Meadow Study. Ms. Kocet stated they moved up the date for the mowing. High Meadow will be mowed the last week of September and the plugs will be planted the first week of October.

Town Owned Open Space

The Commission discussed other project ideas for open space properties and suggested reviewing the Yale Study in regards to the management of the Pond Brook and Pole Bridge properties. Ms. Sturmer would like to add a line on the agenda to discuss the management of the next open space project.

Kiosks

Ms. Sturmer would like to keep the conversation going on the “cleaning-up” of kiosks and will discuss at the next CC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Joyce moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Ms. Sturmer seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Fried, Clerk