

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of October 24, 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, Mark Boland, Tom Philbrick, Chris Smith

Ms. Kocet opened the meeting at 7:05 pm. She began by wishing Jim Ryan the best as he has resigned from the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for September 26, 2017

Mr. Philbrick moved to approve the minutes from September 26, 2017. Ms. Sturmer seconded. All in favor. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was a package received from the State regarding a project on Edmond Road and Church Hill Road. Mr. Philbrick will review the documents and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Commissioners discussed the various other Commissions. Mr. Boland noted the bicycle race at Fairfield Hills. He suggested getting in touch with Mr. Sibley to ensure that the meadows and open space remain untouched. Ms. Sturmer said that the Parks and Rec Commission mentioned the letter from Ms. Kocet and appreciated the recognition. Mr. Philbrick discussed an Inland Wetlands application that was heard on September 27, 2017 regarding pond dredging. Ms. Sturmer said that the activity was in a conservation easement and she will ask for clarification regarding the Conservation Commission's duties from Mr. Sibley. Commissioners agreed to remove the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial off of the Agenda as it is in the works for a parcel referred to as SAC Field.

Ms. Joyce talked about the Catherine Violet Hubbard (CVH) project that was approved by Planning and Zoning. She was upset about the overall scale of the project and wanted to write a letter with her concerns. Ms. Sturmer suggested looking into the original minutes from when CVH acquired the parcel in 2013. Ms. Sturmer, Ms. Joyce and Mr. Smith will work together to craft a letter. Ms. Kocet and Mr. Smith gave an update on the Selectman's meeting where the invasive plant list was discussed. Ms. Llodra wanted to share it with Parks and Rec and Land Use before approving, but it will be revisited at the next Selectman's meeting.

COMMISSION PRIORITIES

Web Page

Ms. Joyce gave the Commission an update. She is working on uploading pictures and is hoping to receive maps of the parcels to include on the website.

High Meadow Update

Ms. Kocet said that the 300 plugs were planted and hoped that they would take well. Ms. Sturmer suggested setting aside money to add more milkweed.

Stone Bridge

Mr. Smith was in contact with the science director, Christian Canfield, at the High School regarding field trips/info sessions at the Stone Bridge site. Mr. Philbrick said to continue with the

discussion as budgeting for 2018-19 will most likely be outlined soon. Ms. Joyce also suggested receiving a budget from the school and trying to find a grant.

Kiosks

Mr. Smith asked if Mr. Sibley has a list of the kiosks for Open Space. The Commission would still like to create a standard for information.

Next Open Space Project/Town Owned Open Space

Ms. Sturmer mentioned doing site walks on Pole Bridge and Pond Brook. Mr. Smith said it would be a good opportunity to take pictures for the website. He suggested creating a list or spreadsheet; documenting parcels 25 acres+ to begin, and then work on the smaller parcels so that there is more information and familiarity.

AI's Trail

Ms. Sturmer did not believe that the charge to oversee AI's trail belonged to the Conservation Commission. She thought it would be best to create a subcommittee with members from different departments and commissions. She suggested asking Joe Hovious, previous CC member, for advice.

OTHER

Mr. Philbrick made a motion to include electing a Chairman to the agenda. Mr. Smith seconded. All members were in favor

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Ms. Sturmer made a motion to elect Ms. Kocet for Chairman. Mr. Smith seconded. All members voted in favor with the exception of Ms. Kocet, who abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Philbrick moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Ms. Joyce seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Georgia Contois, Clerk