

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of February 27, 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, Cindy Joyce, Karlyn Sturmer

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

Ms. Kocet opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES for February 13, 2018**

Under "Newtown Fracking Waste Ban" change "Ms. Joyce" to "Ms. Kocet". Under Executive Session add "Land Purchase Negotiations for Open Space". Ms. Sturmer moved to approve the minutes from February 13, 2018. Ms. Joyce seconded. All in favor. The minutes from February 13, 2018 were approved.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

Planning and Zoning - Ms. Joyce briefly spoke about the Hunters Ridge project.

Board of Selectman - Ms. Sturmer stated it would be nice to have an article in the paper regarding the newly acquired open space properties.

**COMMISSION PRIORITIES**

**Open Space Map** – The CC reviewed the Open Space map. Mr. Sibley spoke about the Pond Brook Conservation Easement. Mr. Sibley suggested having a dozen of the largest conservation easements in town added to the map, for example the Wasserman property. The Commission agreed this would be a nice addition to the open space map and Ms. Kocet designated orange as the easement color.

Mr. Sibley explained the process of an open space acquisition after an open space parcel has been approved and recommended by the Conservation Commission. Mr. Sibley stated the process can take between 3 weeks and 22 months.

**Pole Bridge** – The Commission had a discussion regarding the Pole Bridge property and the concerns they have with the property. Mr. Sibley went over the history of the property and stated that different groups might be willing to help improve its condition ie: Newtown Bridle Lands Association (NBLA), biking groups and trail groups. The Commission would also like to reach out to Parks and Rec for their assistance. The Commission will clarify the issues with the trails and meadow and will present a list to Parks and Rec.

Some items on the list will be the following:

- The cutting and trimming of trees and vegetation
- Add gravel to bottom of the parking area
- Better access in to the property
- Additional parking
- Locked pipe gate at entrance (cost?)

- Erosion on the road
- Possible bi-annual clean-up

The Commission also discussed their concerns with ATV's and how to prevent them from accessing the property. They discussed a one-vehicle access point with large boulders placed between the open space property and the private property owners.

Mr. Sibley stated that the twenty year anniversary of the purchase of the Stone Bridge property is in 2022. Mr. Sibley suggested beginning the process of preparing the property for a celebration by updating the kiosks and trail maps.

**Pond Brook** – The Commissioners discussed a deer blind on the Pond Brook property. Mr. Sibley will go inspect. The Commission agrees that the Pond Brook property is too difficult to access and it will not be a priority. Pond Brook will be taken off the agenda.

**Website** – Ms. Joyce updated the Commission on the website. Keith, the website manager, and Keven, from the IT Dept. are working together on creating open space maps. The maps on the website will be accessed by links. They will also be creating trail maps for the kiosks and are hoping the maps will be ready by spring.

**Oakview Trail** - Ms. Sturmer and Ms. Kocet cleaned up the opening on Oakview Trail.

**Al's Trail** - Ms. Kocet reached out to the Blue Trail Group regarding Al's Trail. They told Ms. Kocet they were overwhelmed and would not be interested in helping.

**Cherry Grove Farm** – Mr. Sibley reviewed the 2-lot subdivision with the commission. The CC should be receiving a referral from the P&Z Commission regarding the conservation easement. The CC will discuss further when it is presented to them.

## **EARTH DAY**

Mr. Boland and Ms. Kocet will be available to help at the CC table on Earth Day. Ms. Joyce might be able to assist, as well.

## **BARBERRY BLITZ**

Ms. Kocet discussed sandwich board signs and banners to help with spreading the news of the Barberry Blitz. Ms. Kocet will look in the basement for other materials. The Commission discussed a date in April but nothing was set.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Joyce moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Ms. Sturmer seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dawn Fried, Clerk