

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of March 27, 2018 at 7:00 pm**  
Meeting Room #1, Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

**These Minutes are Subject to Approval by the Conservation Commission**

**Present:** Holly Kocet, Cindy Joyce, Karlyn Sturmer, Tom Philbrick, Mark Boland, Gail Friedman, Mark Lurie

**Staff:** Robert Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning & Land Use (departed at 8:15 pm), Dawn Fried, Clerk

**Also Present:** Vanessa Villamil, Newtown Environmental Action Group and Robert Nimkoff, 700 Hundreds Acres Road.

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

Ms. Kocet welcomed Ms. Friedman and Mr. Lurie to the Conservation Commission.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Vanessa Villamil, Newtown Environmental Action Group, presented the proposed "Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance". Ms. Villamil gave an overview of the ordinance. The Commission agreed that it would be beneficial to the environment if the grocery stores banned plastic bags. Ms. Villamil stated there is a proposed charge of 10 cents per paper bag; 3 cents going to the establishment and 7 cents going to the Town of Newtown. Ms. Sturmer moved to support the "Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance". Ms. Joyce seconded. All in favor.

**CORRESPONDANCE**

Ms. Kocet reviewed a letter from the P&Z Commission regarding Application 18.03 by GRC Construction for a 2-lot subdivision titled Cherry Grove Farm, dated March 8, 2018. Mr. Sibley gave an overview of the property and the P&Z Application. Mr. Sibley informed the Commission that the P&Z Commission has since approved the application. Mr. Sibley suggested that even though the CC will not have input on the open space property the Commission should still walk the site and fill out a rating sheet for future reference. Mr. Sibley will reach out to the property owner to ask permission to walk the property. The Commission discussed walking the property as a group this weekend.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES for February 27, 2018**

Mr. Boland moved to approve the minutes from February 27, 2018. Ms. Joyce seconded. All in favor. The minutes from February 27, 2018 were approved.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

Board of Finance – Mr. Boland stated the Town budget has been passed and there will be a slight increase in taxes.

Fairfield Hills Authority – Mr. Boland stated the First Selectman would like to entice commercial development to Fairfield Hills. The Commission will keep an eye on the High Meadow.

## **COMMISSION PRIORITIES**

**High Meadow Wildflower Meadow and Vegetation Study** – Mr. Philbrick gave a recap of Bryan Connolly's study. Mr. Philbrick stated that the study has been completed and Mr. Connolly has met his obligations. The study will serve as a baseline and will be referred to in the future with regards to managing the Meadow. Mr. Philbrick sent the Commissioners the results of the study which are titled: The Vegetation Survey, Vegetation Specimen Labels, Plot by Plot Specimen Data and the Meander Survey. Mr. Philbrick also presented the specimen samples. Thirty-six specimens were observed.

**Pole Bridge** – The Commission had a discussion regarding the Pole Bridge property. The Commission would like to speak to Mr. Sibley about the funds available to clean up Pole Bridge as well as reach out to Parks and Rec about building a gate, mowing and other projects. Mr. Lurie offered to help with the planning of the multi-purpose trail at Pole Bridge.

**Website** – Ms. Joyce stated that Keith is still working on the open space maps.

**Al's Trail** – The Commission gave an overview of Al's Trail to Ms. Friedman and Mr. Lurie. They explained that Al's Trail is too large an area for the CC to manage. Mr. Lurie volunteered to reach out to Parks and Rec to verify Parks and Rec's role going forward. Mr. Lurie will report back to the CC at the next meeting.

**Chestnut Hill Open Space** – Ms. Kocet stated the property owner reached out to the CC to create a walking trail on the property. Mr. Sibley will give the CC an overview at the next meeting.

## **EARTH DAY**

Ms. Joyce stated that the date for Earth Day is Saturday, April 28 not April 21 as previously stated. Mr. Boland and Ms. Kocet will be available that day. Ms. Sturmer is unsure. Ms. Kocet will gather materials from the Town Hall.

## **BARBERRY BLITZ**

Ms. Kocet would like to run the Barberry Blitz April 1<sup>st</sup> thru April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Commission discussed setting up information in the Town Hall, putting up signs around town and passing out flyers at Earth Day.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Philbrick moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dawn Fried, Clerk