

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of April 10, 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, Gail Friedman, Mark Lurie (7:30 pm)

Staff: Dawn Fried, Clerk

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for March 27, 2018

Under “Chestnut Hill Open Space” add “adjacent” before “property owner”. Ms. Sturmer moved to approve the amended minutes from March 27, 2018. Ms. Friedman seconded. All in favor. The minutes from March 27, 2018 were approved.

AGENCY REPORTS

Planning and Zoning – Ms. Joyce spoke about the Riverwalk project on Washington Avenue. The Commission discussed the proposed sidewalk. They agreed it was not their purview. The Commission also discussed the trail located in the rear of property.

COMMISSION PRIORITIES

High Meadow Wildflower Meadow and Vegetation Study – Ms. Sturmer suggested a one-page description of the study to be added to the Conservation website. After a lengthy discussion the Commission agreed that Mr. Connolly's 2-page synopsis of the project would be appropriate for the website. The Commission also discussed different ways to highlight Mr. Connolly's thirty-eight plant specimens for the public to view. One suggestion was the public library.

The Commission discussed more plantings on Side B. They would like the meadow to be more appealing. They also agreed that any money left over at the end of the fiscal year should be used on purchasing plants rather than not being used at all.

The Commission would like to add “Budget Items” to the next CC agenda. They would like to discuss how much money is in the CC account and the best ways to spend the money.

Pole Bridge – The Commission had a discussion regarding the Pole Bridge property. Ms. Kocet will reach out to Mr. Sibley regarding the funds available to clean up Pole Bridge. Ms. Kocet will also ask Mr. Sibley to reach out to Parks and Rec regarding several projects on Pole Bridge. Mr. Lurie offered to help with the planning of the multi-purpose trail at Pole Bridge which can be used for walking, horseback riding and bike riding. Mr. Lurie also stated he can reach out to Parks and Rec.

Native Plant Policy – The Commission gave an updated overview of the proposed Native Plant Policy to Ms. Friedman and Mr. Lurie. The Commission would like to “get rolling” again on the implementation of the policy. An email will be sent to the Commission to establish a date to get together.

Website – Ms. Joyce spoke about the maps and links to GIS. Ms. Joyce would like the maps to show the property boundaries. The Commission had a lengthy discussion on different ways to display the maps on the CC website. Mr. Lurie shared his knowledge regarding the technology he uses for trail maps. Mr. Lurie will reach out to Kevin from the Technology Department to discuss creating simple maps to be used by the public. The Commission discussed different ideas for the trails to be accessed on the website. The Commission would like to concentrate on Orchard Hill, Pole Bridge, Deep Brook and High Meadow.

AI's Trail – The Commission gave an overview of AI's Trail to Ms. Friedman and Mr. Lurie. They explained that AI'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.

Permanent Conservation Table in Town Hall - Ms. Kocet updated the Commission on the Conservation table she set up in the hallway at the Town Hall. The Commission discussed different ideas to display information. This month the table will feature Barberry Blitz information. The Commission discussed having a theme every month. Ms. Kocet and Ms. Joyce will supply the table with flyers and a banner.

EARTH DAY

Ms. Kocet, Ms. Friedman, Mr. Lurie, and Mr. Boland will volunteer at the Conservation Commission table on Earth Day. The Commission had a discussion as to this year's theme. They decided to concentrate on Newtown's trail system. Some suggestions for the table are: display Open Space map, hand out trail maps and granola bars with the CC website label, and handouts of the open space preserves.

BARBERRY BLITZ

The Barberry Blitz is underway. Ms. Kocet is waiting on the approval for the sandwich signs. There will also be material at the CC table on Earth Day as well as the Town Hall table.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Sturmer moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Ms. Friedman seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Fried, Clerk