

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of March 28, 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: Jim Ryan, Cindy Joyce, Holly Kocet, Mark Boland, Chris Smith

Also Present: Sharon Poarch, 9 Forest View Drive, Frank Rohrbacher, 8 Nighthawk Lane, Dee Davis, Newtown Bridle Lands Association, Peter Cloudas, Cynthia Carraway, and Mark Laurie from The Trail Crew.

Absent: Tom Philbrick, Karlyn Sturmer

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

Mr. Ryan opened the meeting at 7:04 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for March 13, 2017

Mr. Boland moved to approve the minutes from March 13, 2017. Ms. Joyce seconded. All in favor. The minutes from March 13, 2017 were approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Eagle Scout, Robert Lombardo – Withdrew project.

Stone Bridge - The abutters of the Stone Bridge property, Sharon Poarch and Frank Rohrbacher, voiced their appreciation to the Commission for considering their requests.

Newtown Bridle Trails - Dee Davis, President of the Newtown Bridle Lands Association, discussed the equestrian trails with the Commission. Horseback riding on the Town's Open Space is considered passive recreation. Ms. Davis and the CC discussed ways the two groups can work together to enhance the trails in town. The Commission agreed to add "Equestrian Trail Review" to the next CC agenda under Tracking Topics.

The Trail Crew – Peter Cloudas, founder of the Trail Crew spoke to the Commission about the trailway system in Newtown and ways the CC can work together with other groups to improve and maintain the trails. Mr. Cloudas gave a presentation of his overall mission and long term goals. A lengthy discussion followed. The Commission thanked Mr. Cloudas for his time and both parties agreed to keep communications open.

ACTION ITEMS

Clark Forestry Services Contract Amendment with Contractor Don Moon Logging and the Newtown Conservation Commission

Ms. Joyce moved to accept the amended contract titled "Contract Amendment to the Forest Products Sale Agreement" Terms and Conditions of Sale, dated March 29, 2017, stating that the project completion date will be extended to June 15, 2017 and there will be a net reduction of \$5,300. Mr. Smith seconded. All in favor.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

High Meadow – The Board of Selectmen approved the High Meadow Management Plan at the March 20, 2017 BOS meeting. The approved plan included Sites A & B. After the approval Mr. Ryan spoke with Ms. Mangold from Parks and Rec and both parties agreed to work together on this project.

Ms. Kocet received four estimates for the High Meadow Management Plan and forwarded the estimates to Mr. Philbrick for review. Ms. Fried will forward the estimates to the remaining Commissioners. The Commission will review the estimates in detail at the next CC meeting on April 10, 2017.

Earth Day April 22, 2107 – The Commission continued their discussion on Earth Day. They discussed the materials, subject matter and how to display the information to the public. Ms. Joyce distributed a copy of a habitat and young forest tri-fold that she would like to add to the display. The Commission was also considering adding information about Al's Trails. "Al's Trails" will be added to the next CC agenda under Tracking Topics. They will finalize the details of Earth Day at the next CC meeting on April 10, 2017.

MISC

Mr. Smith inquired about designating open space areas for mountain bike trails. The Commission had a discussion of the possibilities. "Mountain Bike Trails" will be added to the next CC agenda under Tracking Topics.

Adjournment

Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Ms. Kocet seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Fried, Clerk