

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of May 8, 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, Holly Kocet, Tom Philbrick, Cindy Joyce, Chris Smith, Karlyn Sturmer

Also Present: Keith Ciociola

Absent: Mark Boland

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

Mr. Ryan opened the meeting at 7:02 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for April 25, 2017

Under "Public Participation" change "Picon" to "Picone". Mr. Philbrick moved to approve the amended minutes from April 25, 2017. Ms. Joyce seconded. Ms. Sturmer abstained. All in favor. The minutes from April 25, 2017 were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Sibley spoke about an email he received from Ms. Genoa, 6 Meadow Brook Road. Ms. Genoa hired a surveyor to stake out the property located at 6 Meadow Brook Road. The CC hired a surveyor to stake out the adjacent O.S. property. Mr. Ryan and Ms. Kocet will revisit the site after the O.S. markings are complete.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Board of Selectman – Mr. Ryan will reach out to the First Selectman's office to reschedule his presentation of the Native Plant Policy.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Web Page

Mr. Ciociola, a professional website designer from Shiftclick.com, gave an overview of his business and explained the technical side of the web page. He recommended the Commission use Weebly as the platform host. He described Weebly as being "robust", easy to manage, subscription based and suiting the needs of the CC website. The Commission and Mr. Ciociola had a lengthy discussion on the direction of the website and the role that he, as the designer, would have. Mr. Ciociola stated his services would have an initial start-up fee of \$1,000 and an hourly fee thereafter for \$50/hour. The start-up fee would include moving the content of the existing web page in to the new platform. The Commission discussed the hourly services as possibly being on an as-need-basis.

Stone Bridge

The Commission discussed the following:

- Follow-up site visit once the project is completed in early June.
- Mr. Sibley stated that the bond has not been released.
- Mr. Ryan would like to send out letters to the neighbors thanking them for their input,
- A press release will be sent out describing the project.
- An Iroquois Grant Ceremony will be scheduled in August.

- The Commission will reach out to Mr. Boland regarding the grant money and Stone Bridge accounts.
- The CC website will have information on the Stone Bridge project.

High Meadow

The Commission discussed the first mowing of Site B by the Parks and Rec. Dept. The Commission is concerned that the new seed will not penetrate through the current grasses. The Commission also discussed thatching and if that would be a benefit. Holly will reach out to the Parks and Rec Dept. to make sure they cut as low as possible.

The Commission discussed signage for High Meadow. Ms. Kocet reviewed the draft signs with the Commission. They discussed the amount of signs needed, the size of the sign, and the composite options. The Commission decided on 11X14 aluminum signs.

Mr. Philbrick confirmed that Bryan Connolly, Ph.D., will be hired to perform the one-year study of High Meadow. The Commission discussed the budget and will reach out to Mark Boland regarding available funds. The Commission would like to pay Dr. Connolly a partial payment (2/3 of \$3,000) up front. Mr. Ryan will send follow-up letters to the candidates not chosen thanking them for their time.

Town Owned Open Space

Mr. Sibley spoke about an O.S. property on Obtuse Road. He has been made aware that there has been illegal hunting and ATV activity. He stated that proper marking of the property will enable better law enforcement. With the markings in place the Commission can be more vigilant and warrants can be issued for trespassing.

Al's Trail

Mr. Sibley will give a presentation on Al's Trail at the CC meeting on June 12, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Philbrick moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Ms. Sturmer seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Fried, Clerk