

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of June 12, 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, Mark Boland

Teleconferenced: Karlyn Sturmer

Also Present: Tom Long, Birch Rise Drive, Newtown resident

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

Mr. Ryan opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Mr. Ryan offered condolences on behalf of himself and the Commission to Ms. Sturmer for the passing of a family member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for May 8, 2017

Mr. Philbrick moved to approve the minutes from May 8, 2017. Ms. Joyce seconded. Mr. Boland abstained. All in favor. The minutes from May 8, 2017 were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Kocet spoke about a letter she received from Dr. Kimberly Stoner from The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station regarding a request to sample plants and bees at the Newtown municipal pollinator habitat site. The Commission discussed the project. Ms. Kocet will follow up with Dr. Stoner to clarify the goal of the experiment.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Board of Finance – Mr. Boland reviewed the Account Detail Report for Open Space Contributions. The report listed the revenue from the Stone Bride project as being \$16,990.74. The Commission also discussed the O.S. expenses which included signs, land surveys, tents, etc. They also discussed the budget summary and whether it was possible to post the website expenses to the current fiscal year. The website expenses include the initial design and the development of the CC website totaling \$1,350.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

P&Z Application 17.08 Mt. Nebo 2-lot Subdivision

Mr. Sibley gave an overview of the open space parcel with the Commission. The Commission had a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of the property. Mr. Sibley explained that the P&Z Commission was looking for the Conservation Commission to recommend either Fee in Lieu of or to purchase the real property.

Mr. Ryan moved to make a recommendation to the P& Z Commission to take a fee in lieu for open space rather than take the real property because it is disconnected from other open space parcels in town, it's a small property, and it's encumbered by existing wetlands with a wetland buffer. Mr. Smith seconded. All in favor.

P&Z Application 17.04 Turkey Ridge 11-lot Subdivision

The Commission discussed the property and reviewed the site plans. They decided to schedule a site walk of the property before making a recommendation to the P&Z.

Potential O.S. Offer

Mr. Sibley discussed a potential Open Space parcel that has .29 acres. He instructed the Commissioners to walk the site and fill out a Rating Sheet. They will discuss at the next CC meeting.

Site Visit to 6 Meadow Brook Road

The Commission will revisit the property now that it's marked. Mr. Ryan will send out an email to coordinate.

Website Consultant Approval

Mr. Ryan received the website proposal from Mr. Ciociola and stated it was more than reasonable. Mr. Ryan moved to expend \$1,350 to Shift.Click.Design., LLC for the Initial Design and Development of the Conservation website. Mr. Smith seconded. All in favor.

COMMISSION PRIORITIES

Stone Bridge

Mr. Ryan will follow-up with letters to the neighbors. Mr. Ryan will also send out an email to the Commissioners to schedule a follow-up site walk.

High Meadow Update

- The High Meadow 11X14 aluminum signs will be installed on Wednesday (6/14/17).
- Parks and Rec mowed Site B last week (6/7/17).
- The seeding will be done on Thursday (6/15/17) by the CT DEEP

Native Plant Policy

The Native Plant Policy is on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen's meeting on June 20, 2017. Ms. Sturmer and Ms. Kocet will attend the meeting.

AI's Trail

Mr. Sibley will give a presentation on AI's Trail at the CC meeting on July 10, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Philbrick moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Ms. Kocet seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Fried, Clerk