

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of April 25, 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: Holly Kocet, Mark Boland, Tom Philbrick, Cindy Joyce, Chris Smith

Also Present: Mary Wilson

Absent: Jim Ryan, Karlyn Sturmer

Staff: Dawn Fried, Clerk

Ms. Kocet served as acting Chair in Mr. Ryan's absence

Ms. Kocet opened the meeting at 7:02 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for April 10, 2017

Under "High Meadow" change "excel" to "Excel". Mr. Philbrick moved to approve the amended minutes from April 10, 2017. Ms. Joyce seconded. Mr. Smith abstained. All in favor. The minutes from April 10, 2017 were approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mary Wilson updated the Commission on the High Meadow study. Ms. Wilson received an email from Peter Picon from DEEP changing his opinion on the treatment of the meadow. Mr. Picon advised the Study group to use an herbicide prior to seeding rather than do nothing to the existing meadow. Mr. Picon felt the seeding activity would be more successful if the meadow was treated. The Commission discussed different treatment options. One treatment option was to use an organic vinegar herbicide. The vinegar herbicide would be costly and would need four applications. After a lengthy discussion the Commission decided to stick with the original plan and not use herbicide.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Fried passed out a correspondence letter that was emailed to the Commission from Jeremy Clark on April 25, 2017. Mr. Clark's email updated the Commission on the Stone Bridge project. Mr. Clark spoke about a meeting he had with Rob Sibley and Don Moon on April 21, 2017. The Commission discussed organizing a visit in the next few weeks to the Stonebridge site.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Board of Finance – Mr. Boland spoke about the Town pulling money from the O.S. Indexing account and putting the funds in another town account.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Earth Day Recap – The Commission discussed Earth Day. Mr. Smith stated it was a good day overall. Some suggestions for next year are to have a minimum of two people at the booth at all times, set up by the ambulance again because it was a good draw for the kids, and that the booth can be in the middle of other vendors and doesn't need to be on a corner. There was

a lot of public interest in OS parcels and Newtown trails. Mr. Smith will write up a one page synopsis of what worked and what didn't work to put on file for next year.

Web Page – Ms. Joyce feels it's necessary to hire a professional to manage the website. She stated that the town's laptop operating system is antiquated and is unable to download updates. Ms. Joyce would like to invite Keith Ciociola to the next CC meeting on May 8, 2017. Mr. Ciociola is a professional website designer. Ms. Joyce would like another opinion regarding the CC website. The Commission discussed how to improve the website and how to arrange the material.

High Meadow – Mr. Philbrick gave an update of the High Meadow proposals. Mr. Philbrick reached out to the four candidates and requested more information. Two of the candidates responded with more details. After reviewing the comparative study with the additional information Mr. Philbrick recommended Connolly as the best candidate. The Commission would like to hire Connolly for the first year but needs to confirm out how much money is in the budget. Mr. Boland will follow-up on the \$3,000 required for the study.

Mr. Philbrick moved to hire Connolly for a one year vegetative study. Mr. Smith seconded. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Philbrick moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Fried, Clerk