

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of August 27, 2019 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, Gail Friedman, Mark Lurie, Mark Boland

Absent: John Dixon, Mike Santora, John Madzula

Staff: Rob Sibley, Deputy Director of Land Use and Dawn Fried, Clerk

Also present: One member of the public

Ms. Kocet opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES for July 23, 2019**

Mr. Lurie moved to approve the minutes from July 23, 2019. Ms. Friedman seconded. All in favor. The minutes from July 23, 2019 were approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Kocet spoke about a notice from the CT DEEP regarding a tentative determination to approve an application submitted by the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) for the river restoration and bank stabilization of the Pootatuck River. Mr. Sibley stated that the HVA gave a presentation to the Inland Wetland Commission in March regarding this rootwad project which will be conducted upstream of Deep Brook on the Pootatuck River confluence.

On another note Ms. Kocet asked whether Deep Brook was “reduced to nothing” as a result of the construction on Wasserman Way. Mr. Sibley stated yes it has been severely impacted by the pipe replacement.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

Board of Finance - Mr. Boland gave an overview of a State grant awarded to the Town for Proposki Farm and its preservation of 30 acres of farmland. The acreage is smaller than requested but still serves the purpose of agritourism. Mr. Boland thanked Mr. Sibley for his time and effort on the project. It was determined the project was over ten years in the making and will finally be completed by the end of February. There will be a shared easement with the Town, Federal Government and NRCS.

Fairfield Hills Authority – Mr. Boland stated the Fairfield Hills town surveys were back and approx. 60% of the residents do not want housing at Fairfield Hills complex and approx. 40% do not want to spend money on the buildings. The final decision will be made early next year. A town referendum is expected on the matter.

**DISCUSSION**

Robin Hill Road – Mr. Sibley stated that he walked the property with Luke, a summer intern for the Land Use Agency. Luke mapped out the property for the town GIS system. Mr. Sibley spoke about fallen trees and will contact Parks and Rec to rectify. Mr. Sibley stated the 40-acre parcel will be transferred to the town after the closing this Friday. Mr. Lurie spoke about a discussion with Paula Burton from Housatonic Valley New England Mountain Bike Association

(NEMBA) regarding a trail system through the property. With the addition of the 40-acres of open space there should be approx. 120 acres.

High Meadow Wildflower Meadow – Holly Kocet, Gail Friedman and Christine O'Neill have been cutting and digging up the mugwort in the meadow. Dan Holmes is scheduled to start the barberry removal in September. He will be cutting and painting the barberry.

Pole Bridge Preserve – Mr. Lurie has an interest in creating a trail system and will discuss the possibilities with the Bike and Trails committee. Mr. Lurie would like to walk the property in the fall when the leaves are down and the area is easier to traverse.

Conservation Table – Ms. Kocet will be adding more information on barberry to coincide with Dan Holmes's project on High Meadow.

Invasive Task Plant Force – There is a photo shoot scheduled with The Bee in hopes of sparking interest and helping to create a larger volunteer base for the invasive task force.

Website – Mr. Sibley continues to receive calls regarding conservation matters and directs them to the CC website. Mr. Sibley has received feedback that the website is very helpful.

Newtown Pollinator Pathway – Ms. Kocet stated the following areas have gardens which are part of the Pollinator Pathway: Holcomb Hill, Cherry Grove, High Meadow, the fruit trail at Fairfield Hills, Barb's Trail, the animal shelter and Tammy's Garden which is proposed at the municipal center.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION – Discussion of a Possible Land Acquisition

Ms. Friedman moved to open the Executive Session at 7:37 pm for the discussion of a possible land acquisition. Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Lurie moved to close the Executive Session at 7:45 pm. Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor.

No vote was taken.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Boland moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Lurie seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn Fried