

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of February 25, 2020 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, John Dixon, Gail Friedman, Mark Boland, Mark Lurie

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

Ms. Kocet opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Boland made a motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2020. Mr. Dixon seconded. All were in favor and the minutes from February 11, 2020 were approved.

AGENCY REPORTS

Board of Finance – Mr. Boland stated the budget process has been ongoing, nothing unusual.
Parks and Rec. – Mr. Dixon offered to review the Parks and Rec minutes going forward.
Board of Selectman – Ms. Kocet stated the conversation was “what to do with Fairfield Hills?”.
Bike and Trails – Mr. Lurie spoke about Keating Farms Road and the possible closure of part of the road for a trail. He also mentioned possible horse trails behind Kent Hall on the Fairfield Hills campus.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Director’s Report - Mr. Sibley stated that a couple of open space parcels will be coming in soon for the CC’s review. Also, a new GPS unit will be arriving on Friday. Mr. Sibley stated it is user-friendly and will be an “open space super tool”. The GPS unit will allow the CC to accurately mark open space properties in conjunction with the town’s GIS system. Mr. Sibley will train the Commission on how to operate the device.

High Meadow Wildflower Meadow – The Commission is still unsure as to who put the signs around the milk weed on High Meadow. Mr. Sibley will remove the signs next time he is up there. The Commission had a discussion regarding the High Meadow study. Ms. Kocet will double check but is fairly certain the study should be “wrapped up” this year. Mr. Sibley suggested getting three quotes this spring so as to be ready for the final evaluation in the fall.

Stone Bridge Preserve – The driveway has been graded. Ms. Kocet suggested a visit.

Education – The CC website and the CC domain name have been renewed for three years.

Kiosks - Ms. Kocet suggested creating a template for the kiosks with a map, history, trails and pictures. Ms. Kocet asked the Commission if anyone wanted to take on the task.

Earth Day – The Commission discussed the town’s Earth Day celebration. Traditionally the CC has a table and information for the public. Mr. Sibley will find out the date of the celebration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Kocet moved to enter Executive Session to discuss possible land acquisition, and invited Rob Sibley and Dawn Fried. Mr. Dixon seconded. All were in favor and Executive Session began at 7:18 pm. Executive Session ended at 7:28 pm.

Ms. Kocet moved to approve the acceptance of Application O.S. #20-01. Mr. Dixon seconded. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Friedman moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Dixon seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Fried