

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of September 8, 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, Mark Boland, Mark Lurie, Justin Kaiser

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

Ms. Kocet opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Ms. Kocet moved to change the order of the agenda. Mr. Dixon seconded. All in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Kaiser moved to begin the Executive Session at 7:08 pm to discuss a possible land acquisition. Mr. Sibley and Ms. Fried were invited. Mr. Dixon seconded. All were in favor. Executive Session ended at 7:21 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Dixon moved to approve the minutes of August 25, 2020. Mr. Kaiser seconded. All in favor. The minutes from August 25, 2020 were approved.

AGENCY REPORTS

Board of Finance – Mr. Boland stated that BOF is having regular remote meetings. Newtown has an overage in budget due to the COVID slow down. The expenses will catch up over time.

Parks and Rec. – Mr. Dixon reported on a potential soccer disc course.

Inland Wetlands – Mr. Kaiser will report on the IWC minutes going forward.

Planning and Zoning – Mr. Dixon reported on the approval of Mr. Carnrick's application that came before the CC.

Board of Selectman – Ms. Kocet stated the BOS approved open Space donations on 35 Great Quarter Road, 97 Glen Road and 179 & 189 Great Quarter Road. Mr. Lurie questioned 97 Glen Road. No decision has been made on the open space donation on 127 Walnut Tree Hill Road, Lots 4 and 5. BOS will revisit in the fall.

Bike and Trails – Mr. Lurie stated the committee is working on a grant from the national forestry service. It's in a holding pattern due to COVID.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

High Meadow Wildflower Meadow – Ms. Kocet stated that the flowers are very pretty in the High Meadow but the predominant colors are yellow and gold. Ms. Kocet would like to purchase other plants with different colors. Ms. Kocet stated she registered for the Monarch waystation certification and purchased a Monarch waystation sign that she placed on the High Meadow.

Ms. Kocet stated she noticed a possible fireplace from an old farm. Ms. Kocet suggested adding the history of the 4 farms in the Fairfield Hills kiosk.

Stone Bridge Preserve – Ms. Kocet suggested a visit.

Conservation table – The Commission discussed adding new information. Ms. Kocet suggested Cliff Swallows as a theme.

The Commission discussed future CC meetings. The next CC meeting will be on September 22, 2020. The Commission agreed there will be one meeting in October, November and December on the second Tuesday of the month. The regularly scheduled meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month will be cancelled unless a topic needs to be addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Fried