

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of October 23, 2018 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, John Madzula II, Mike Santora, Mark Boland

**Staff:** Dawn Fried, Clerk

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES for October 9, 2018**

Mr. Boland moved to approve the minutes from October 9, 2018. Mr. Madzula seconded. All in favor. The minutes from October 9, 2018 were approved.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Present:** Dan Cologna, resident, 4 Castle Lane, and Mike D'Amato, 39 Oak Ridge Drive, Developer and Owner of Castle Meadow Subdivision.

Mr. Cologna questioned the process of "fee in lieu of" and its objectives. The Commissioners explained "fee in lieu of" may be a viable option if there is no connectivity to other open space parcels or if the land is poor quality. The Commission noted Newtown Forest Association is across the street.

Mr. D'Amato stated the plans were designed to accommodate both options (open space land and fee in lieu of) without having to make any major changes to the road. Mr. D'Amato explained monies obtained from "fee in lieu of" can be used to purchase more attractive open space parcels. Mr. D'Amato stated that the fee in lieu may have been a better option at Castle Meadow because that open space parcel was not going to be developed anyway.

Mr. Madzula questioned the width of the narrow area of land leading to Newtown Forest Association. Mr. D'Amato confirmed it was twenty-five feet wide.

Mr. Boland moved to recommend the acceptance of open space outlined in the site plan titled "Sunset Ridge, Newtown, CT, 57 Castle Meadow Road a Subdivision Plan, dated revised October 8, 2018." Mr. Santora seconded. All in favor.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

Parks and Rec – Mr. Santora stated that Parks and Rec discussed the Trail Committee and asked for volunteers from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Lurie will volunteer.

Board of Selectman – Ms. Kocet stated the BOS will discuss the "Plastic Ban Reduction Ordinance". Ms. Kocet will attend the meeting and invited other CC members to join her.

## **DISCUSSION**

**High Meadow** - Ms. Kocet spoke to Carl from Parks and Rec. Carl will mow the meadow in June. The meadow was mowed late fall of last year.

**Pole Bridge** – Ms. Kocet, Ms. Friedman and Mr. Lurie walked Pole Bridge over the weekend. Mr. Lurie explained that he is rerouting a small section of the trail for an easier more scenic route to the top of Pole Bridge. Mr. Lurie would like to rake the path to create a more defined trail. Mr. Lurie placed pin flags along the trail. It was noted that the field was mowed.

**Native Plant Policy** - The CC discussed adopting a policy that would recommend native plants be used on town property.

**Permanent Conservation Table** – Ms. Kocet stated the table this month is focused on pollinators.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Friedman moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Dawn Fried, Clerk