

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting

July 11, 2023 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, Michael Ablondi, Mark Boland, Mark Lurie

Staff: Dawn Fried, Clerk

Public: Charles Zukowski

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Boland moved to approve the minutes of June 13, 2023. Mr. Ablondi seconded.

All in favor. The minutes from June 13, 2023 were approved.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Review of P&Z Application 23.15

The Commission reviewed the site plan for the 2-lot subdivision on 38 Black Bridge Road. They discussed the location of the lots and whether there was any open space. After a brief discussion the Commission agreed there is no connectivity of open space and the best option is fee in lieu of.

Mr. Lurie moved to make a recommendation to the P&Z Commission for fee in lieu of open space for P&Z Application 23.15, a 2-lot subdivision located at 38 Black Bridge Road.

Mr. Ablondi seconded. All in favor.

Open Space Update

Ms. Kocet stated the open space transfers to the town are in process and awaiting paperwork from the Town attorney.

Highlands Conservation Act Endorsement Update

Ms. Kocet stated the Highlands Act has been endorsed by the Board of Selectmen and is currently being reviewed by the DEEP.

Other Commissions

Charles Zukowski, 4 Cornfield Ridge Road, Bike and Trails Committee (BTC), stated the BTC had been doing some maintenance on the Rochambeau Trail, which is less than a mile long. The area is located between Reservoir and Castle Hill Road.

Invasive Knotweed Management group looking for CC support

Ms. Kocet would like to move forward with asking other Town agencies to help with the maintenance of the Japanese Knotweed. Ms. Kocet has concerns with the Japanese knotweed growing throughout the town and eventually impacting house values. Mr. Ablondi agreed that it is an aggressive invasive that needs to be removed. Ms. Kocet stated the best way to destroy the knotweed is to use an herbicide in the fall and repeat the application for 3 years.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ablondi moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Fried