

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of March 12, 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, Mike Santora, John Dixon, Gail Friedman, Mark Boland

Staff: Dawn Fried, Clerk

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for February 26, 2019

Mr. Dixon moved to approve the minutes from February 26, 2019. Ms. Friedman seconded. All in favor. The minutes from February 26, 2019 were approved.

AGENCY REPORTS

Board of Finance – Mr. Boland stated the budget was passed and there will be \$15,000 in the Conservation Commission's Open Space Indexing fund which is the same amount as last year.

Board of Selectman – Ms. Kocet gave an overview of the BOS minutes.

Inland Wetlands – Ms. Friedman stated that the Hawleyville application was denied.

Bike and Trails – Mr. Lurie did not attend the CC meeting but Ms. Kocet summarized an email that Mr. Lurie sent regarding the revitalization of a mountain bike trail at Pole Bridge. Ms. Kocet would like to ask Mr. Sibley if the CC has any say regarding a Mountain Bike trail at Pole Bridge.

DISCUSSION

High Meadow – Ms. Kocet gave an overview of a meeting she had with Selectman Rosenthal, Mr. Sibley (Land Use Agency) and Mr. Samuelson (Parks and Rec Dept.) regarding the invasive plants on Fairfield Hill's open space. The group discussed managing the invasives, creating a group of volunteers, implementing educational aspects and hiring Holmes Fine Gardens for the removal of invasives. Mr. Samuelson explained that he preferred the "cut and paint" process to remove invasives, specifically for Japanese Knotwood and Mugwort. Ms. Kocet was excited by the tone of the meeting and the cooperative effort expressed by the attendees. Selectman Rosenthal stated he would assist with the social media aspect to help spread the logistical information regarding the meeting dates.

Ms. Kocet and Ms. Friedman have identified the invasives. Ms. Kocet discussed the Barberry Blitz in 2012 at which time the CC hired Holmes Fine Gardens for the removal of invasives. Ms. Kocet discussed hiring Holmes Fine Gardens again with an estimated \$3,000 to spend. Ms. Kocet mentioned there was an abundance of barberry, bittersweet and autumn olive around the meadows and fields.

Newtown Pollinator Pathway – Ms. Kocet stated the pollinator group is working on posters. The kickoff will take place at the Newtown library on April 7, 2019 at 2:00 pm. Selectman Rosenthal will be reading a proclamation.

Native Plant Policy – Ms. Kocet and Ms. Friedman will be reviewing the Native Plant Resource Guide from the town of Mount Pleasant. They discussed making the list smaller. Ms. Fried will email the pdf to the Commission.

Conservation Table – The next theme will be invasive plants which is in conjunction with the CC's current project

Kiosks – The Commission discussed adding the invasive plant information to each kiosk.

Earth Day – The Commission discussed Earth Day. Ms. Kocet suggested "Invasive Plants" as the theme. Ms. Friedman suggested handing out "Seed Ballz" which are clay balls with seeds. Ms. Friedman will look in to the price. Ms. Kocet will be bringing tri-fold display boards with invasive information. These boards have been used at past events. The Commission also spoke about having sign-up sheets for volunteers to help with the invasive removal project on High Meadow. Mr. Lurie and Ms. Friedman have volunteered to work at the booth. Mr. Sibley will help with the set-up and break-down.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Friedman moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Dawn Fried, Clerk