

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of August 28, 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, Cindy Joyce, Mike Santoro

**Staff:** Dawn Fried, Clerk

Ms. Kocet opened the meeting at 7:01 pm.

The Commission welcomed Mr. Santoro. Mr. Santoro gave a brief overview of his life and his interests in the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES for July 24, 2018**

Under “Kiosks” change “Krusen” to “Cruson”. Ms. Friedman moved to approve the amended minutes from July 24, 2018. Ms. Kocet seconded. All in favor. Ms. Joyce abstained. The minutes from July 24, 2018 were approved.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**Parks and Rec** – Mr. Santoro will report on Parks and Rec going forward.

**DISCUSSION**

**High Meadow Wildflower Meadow** – Ms. Kocet stated that the meadow is doing well and the Golden Rod is plentiful. Ms. Joyce gave an overview of the High Meadow study to Mr. Santoro.

**Native Plant Policy** – Ms. Kocet would like to get started on the native plant policy in September.

**Pole Bridge** – Mr. Sibley gave Mr. Santoro a brief overview of the Pole Bridge property. Ms. Friedman and Ms. Joyce stated that the trail is covered in siltgrass. Mr. Sibley will reach out to Carl from Parks and Rec to cut the siltgrass. Mr. Sibley suggested wood chips as a possible option for the trail in the future.

**Website** - Ms. Joyce will reach out to Keith from Shiftclick regarding updating the Commissioner member list and posting the quantitative High Meadow study. The Commission also questioned if Mr. Lurie had made any progress on uploading the trail maps.

**Kiosks** – Ms. Friedman and Mr. Boland have been working on the kiosk at the Halfway River. Mr. Boland stated in an email that he reached out to Mr. Philbrick to walk the Halfway River with the Commission. The tentative date is Labor Day. Mr. Boland will contact the Commission to confirm. Ms. Friedman stated that she met with Dan Cruson, the town historian, regarding the Halfway River. Mr. Cruson shared historical information regarding dates and events and recommended a book from the library. Ms. Joyce is working on the Pole Bridge kiosk. Ms. Joyce stated she is waiting for the maps to be uploaded to the website. Ms. Kocet is also waiting for the High Meadow map to be uploaded.

**Permanent Conservation Table** – Ms. Kocet stated that the table is currently spot-lighting the plants from the High Meadow.

**Invasive remediation on Fairfield Hill** – Mr. Sibley will reach out to Carl from Parks and Rec.

**Possible involvement in town-wide greenway/pollinator pathway** – Ms. Kocet explained the pollinator pathway program to the Commission and asked if they had an interest in taking part in the program. Ms. Kocet stated it would be a great way to increase awareness of the pollinators. Ms. Joyce suggested looking at the Natural Resource Inventory to gain better knowledge of the habitat corridors.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Mr. Sibley has been corresponding with Kevin from IT regarding updating the GIS Maps.
- Mr. Sibley stated the tools have been moved to the basement
- Mr. Sibley stated the NFA easement has been recorded with the town to preserve Cherry Grove Farm.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Discussion of a Possible Land Donation**

Ms. Joyce moved to begin Executive Session at 7:50 pm for the discussion of a possible land donation. Ms. Friedman seconded. All in favor. Ms. Joyce moved to close the Executive session at 7:58 pm. Ms. Friedman seconded. All in favor. No vote was taken.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Joyce moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Ms. Friedman seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dawn Fried, Clerk