

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of January 22, 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, Mark Lurie, Mike Santora, John Dixon

Staff: Robert Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning & Land Use, Dawn Fried, Clerk

Ms. Kocet opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for January 8, 2019

Mr. Santora moved to approve the minutes from January 8, 2019. Mr. Dixon seconded. All in favor. The minutes from January 8, 2019 were approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Discussion of Possible Land Acquisition

Mr. Santora moved to open the Executive Session at 7:02 pm for the discussion of a possible land acquisition. Mr. Dixon seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Lurie moved to close the Executive Session at 7:11 pm. Mr. Santora seconded. All in favor.

No vote was taken.

AGENCY REPORTS

Parks and Rec – Mr. Santora stated that Parks and Rec mentioned the trees being cut on High Meadow. Ms. Kocet spoke with Ms. Mangold. It was explained that the Town pruned the trees that needed attention. The CC would like the courtesy of being notified next time.

AGENDA

Add to CC agenda under “Agency Reports”: 7. Bike and Trails Committee – Mark Lurie

Add to CC agenda under “Open Space”: Data Base and Unique ID Files

DISCUSSION

Election of Officers – Will be discussed at the next meeting. Ms. Kocet stated the Commission needs a Co-Chair.

High Meadow – Ms. Kocet spoke to Carl with Parks and Rec regarding the mowing of High Meadow. It was decided the meadow will be mowed twice a year; Feb/March and Oct/Nov.

Pole Bridge – Mr. Lurie stated that the re-routing of the path is complete. Mr. Lurie blocked the existing trail by using material he cut and marked the new path. Mr. Lurie will revisit the site to mark the open space and backside areas better.

Open Space Rating Sheet – Mr. Lurie created a new open space evaluation form that is connected to a gmail account. The Commissioners will be able to access the online forms while they are walking the open space property. After the Commissioners submit the form the information will be compiled on a spreadsheet.

Invasive Plant Task Force – Ms. Kocet stated that Georgie Elkins and Lou Denaro have volunteered to be on the Task Force. Mr. Kocet also mentioned that the weed puller has been ordered. Mr. Kocet noted that the Japanese Knotweed was chopped down by the fruit trail. The Commission had a discussion on the best way to eliminate the invasive species. Ms. Kocet spoke with Carl with Parks and Rec regarding herbicides. Carl stated that painting the stalks with herbicide is less labor intensive than mowing three times a year.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted, Dawn Fried, Clerk