

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of October 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, Gail Friedman, Mark Lurie, Mike Santora

Absent: Mark Boland, John Dixon, John Madzula

Staff: Dawn Fried, Clerk

Public: Christine O'Neill

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for September 24, 2019

Ms. Friedman moved to approve the minutes from September 24, 2019. Mr. Santora seconded. All in favor. The minutes for September 24, 2019 were approved.

AGENCY REPORTS

Bike and Trails – Mr. Lurie informed the Commission that the Bike and Trails Committee was awarded a non-monetary grant titled “National Park Service – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program Grant” for the AI’s Trail project. This grant will give technical assistance in developing and executing a work plan for restoring and improving AI’s Trail.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Planning and Zoning Referral for P&Z Application 19.27 – The Commission reviewed the site plans for GRC Construction property located at 18 Old Hawleyville Road. After a lengthy discussion the Commission agreed that the proposed open space would have connectivity to surrounding open space parcels and would benefit the town. Ms. Friedman moved to make a recommendation to the P&Z Commission to approve open space for the 2 Lot Subdivision on 18 Old Hawleyville Road. Mr. Lurie seconded. All in favor.

Planning and Zoning Referral for P&Z Application 19.26 – The Commission reviewed the site plans for Joseph Whelan property located at 121 Boggs Hill Road. After a lengthy discussion the Commission agreed that the proposed open space would not have connectivity to other open space parcels and would not link to town trails. Mr. Santora moved to make a recommendation to the P&Z Commission to approve fee in lieu of open space for the 2 Lot Subdivision on 121 Boggs Hill Road. Ms. Kocet seconded. All in favor.

High Meadow Wildflower Meadow – Ms. Kocet stated she spoke with Carl from Parks and Rec regarding the mowing of the meadow. Ms. Kocet would like to hold off until April to benefit the insects. Ms. Kocet stated there should be a follow-up evaluation of the High Meadow study to determine which native plants and invasive plants exist in the meadow. Ms. Kocet would like the Commission to research different grants to fund it.

Stone Bridge Preserve – Ms. Kocet and Ms. Friedman visited the Stonebridge site. They were both impressed and excited with the new growth on the property and noted the trees have grown 3 to 5 feet. Ms. Kocet stated they were happy to see the logs in place and now deem the site a great habitat for rabbits. They also noticed someone had dumped a miter saw on the

property and will ask Mr. Sibley who to contact to have it removed. Ms. Kocet read a list of native trees, shrubs and invasive plants that were identified on the property (see attached).

Conservation Table – Ms. Kocet stated there is a new poster and handouts regarding invasive vines on the conservation table.

Website – Ms. Kocet stated invasive plant pictures have been added to the CC website. The next step is to get descriptions for each picture. Ms. Kocet has been working with Mr. Ciociola.

Newtown Pollinator Pathway – Ms. Kocet stated that Tammy’s Garden has been planted and looks great. The two main groups involved were Protect Our Pollinators and the Newtown Pollinator Pathway as well as many volunteers.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Friedman moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Santora seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Fried

Stonebridge Site Walk – October 20, 2019 - Gail Friedman and Holly Kocet

Native Trees and Shrubs:

Red Maple saplings (*Acer rubrum*)

Black Birch (*Betula lenta*)

Sweet Fern (*Comptonia peregrina*)

American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)

Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)

Tulip (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

Poplar (*Populus*)

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

Chestnut Oak (*Quercus prinus*)

Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus hirta*)

Blackberry/Raspberry (*Rubus*)

Sassafras (*S. albidum*)

Highbush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)

Mapleleaf Viburnum (*V. acerifolium*)

Herbaceous Perennials & Grasses:

Little Blue Stem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Goldenrod (*Solidago*)

Asters (*Symphotrichum*)

Invasive Plants :

Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) – few in habitat area

Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) – some encroaching from pipeline

Other:

Dumping along staging area – muffler and pipe and table mitre saw

Not much deer browsing was indentified

CC meeting
10/22/19
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