

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of May 14, 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, John Dixon, Gail Friedman, John Madzula

Staff: Dawn Fried, Clerk

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for April 23, 2019

Under "Newtown Earth Day" change "Mr. Lurie" to "Mr. Boland". Ms. Friedman moved to approve the amended minutes from April 23, 2019. Mr. Madzula seconded. All in favor. The minutes from April 23, 2019 were approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jennifer Cebry, Program Coordinator of the Newtown Community Center, spoke with the Conservation Commission regarding possible locations for Sunset Yoga on the Fairfield Hill's Open Space. Ms. Cebry stated that the programs at the Community Center are centered around health and wellness. Ms. Kocet voiced her concerns regarding the ground nesters and the disturbance of wildlife. The other factors discussed were mowing of the meadow, yoga mats on the spikey grass and pedestrian traffic on the path. Other location options around Fairfield Hills was also discussed. Ms. Cebry stated the yoga classes would occur quarterly with the hopes of the first class starting at the end of July from 7:45 pm - 8:30 pm. The Commission and Ms. Cebry will continue the discussion at a later time.

The Commission also discussed partnering with the Community Center on community projects relating to the Conservation Commission. One project discussed was the possible planting of gardens on the Community Center property.

CORRESPONDENCE

An email was presented to Ms. Kocet from Joseph Manning dated May 10, 2019 regarding a Grass Carp project on a pond located at 54 Marlin Road. The topic will be added to the CC agenda for the May 28, 2019 meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS

Planning and Zoning – Mr. Madzula gave an overview of the P&Z meeting.

Bike and Trails – Trail Work Day is June 1, 2019.

DISCUSSION

High Meadow – Ms. Kocet stated that Mugwort had started to invade a section in the High Meadow. The Conservation Commission sprayed the Mugwort with Round Up herbicide. Ms. Kocet stated the CC needs to purchase signage when doing projects on the High Meadow to keep the community apprise. Ms. Kocet will reach out to Mr. Sibley about signage. The CC would also like to purchase plants to fill in the empty spot where the Mugwort grew. A suggestion was Golden Rod because it is hearty.

Native Plant Policy – Still in the works. Going over the policy.

Conservation Table – The next theme will be “invasive plants” which is in conjunction with the CC’s current project. The leftover material from Earth Day will be used.

Invasive Plant Task Force – Will get started in June.

CC Website – Still working on taking pictures of native plants for the CC website.

Kiosks – Ms. Kocet will ask Mr. Sibley and Mr. Maguire for maps of the High Meadow for the kiosk.

Earth Day – Unfortunately the weather on Earth Day was cold, windy and wet and the community did not attend the event. The Commission was packed up by 1:00 pm.

Newtown Pollinator Pathway - Ms. Kocet, Mary Wilson and Newtown Forest Association (NFA) helped an Eagle Scout and his group plant a garden at Cherry Grove on Saturday. The garden is located on the old foundation of the school house. The project lasted from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Friedman moved to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Madzula seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Dawn Fried, Clerk