

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of May 28, 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, Mark Lurie, Mike Santora,
Mark Boland

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for May 14, 2019

Mr. Dixon moved to approve the minutes from May 14, 2019. Ms. Friedman seconded.
All in favor. The minutes from May 14, 2019 were approved.

AGENCY REPORTS

Fairfield Hills Authority – Mr. Boland reported that at the FHA meeting in April the Commission complained about the debris around the Victory Garden. Ms. Friedman agreed it was unsightly.

Bike and Trails – Mr. Lurie stated Trail Work Day is set for this Saturday, June 1st. The group will be meeting at 9:00am at the end of Commerce Drive. The purpose of the day is for the maintenance of Al's Trail. The group will be concentrating on the area along the sewer treatment plant to Tom's Brook to Rt. 84. Mr. Lurie will be moving the trail away from the river for safety reasons as well as maintenance work and clearing.

DISCUSSION

Grass Carp Project – The Commission discussed a grass carp project which was presented to them by Joseph Manning for a possible endorsement. The project location is a pond shared by 52 Marlin Road, 54 Marlin Road and Town Open Space. Mr. Sibley asked whether the Commission reviewed the DEEP permit or application. The Commission has not seen either and will request a copy. The Commission will render a decision after reviewing all of the information.

High Meadow – Ms. Kocet and Ms. Friedman stated that the herbicide treatment was successful and most of the Mugwort is gone. The remaining Mugwort is contained and Ms. Kocet suggested weed-whacking the rest.

Director's Report – Mr. Sibley reported to the Commission that the Open Space land and trails near the Batchelder site have been deemed contaminated and unusable by CT DEEP and no public access will be permitted near or around the area. Mr. Sibley stated "No Trespassing" signs will be posted and the area will be monitored and enforced by the law.

Mr. Sibley informed the Commission of a Farmer who is interested in creating a hay meadow on 9 acres of Town Open Space on Turnberry Lane. Currently the land is overgrown with Autumn Olive and other invasives. The farmer would like to clean up the land, remove the invasives, add manure from his farm and create a hay meadow. The Farmer will send a one-page description of the project. Mr. Sibley invited the Commission to walk the property.

Native Plant Policy – Still in the works.

Conservation Table – The next theme will be “invasive plants”.

Invasive Plant Task Force – Mr. Holmes will get started in mid-June.

Kiosks – Mr. Sibley had a discussion with the Commission regarding trail maps for the kiosks. Mr. Sibley suggested mapping out the trails with the GPS device from Newtown’s Tech Dept. After the Tech Dept. adds the trail information to the Town GIS they will have access to trail maps which then can be printed and added to the kiosks. The Commissioners liked the idea and will use the GPS device in the near future.

Newtown Pollinator Pathway - Ms. Kocet and Mary Wilson finished planting the garden at Cherry Grove located on the foundation of the old school house. The Commission also discussed planting gardens at the dog park and the Community Center. Ms. Kocet stated that she and Ms. Wilson have a meeting scheduled to discuss plantings at the Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted, Dawn Fried, Clerk