



**TOWN OF NEWTOWN
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

February 28, 2012 @ 7:00 pm

Newtown Municipal Center, Meeting Room #3

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470

In attendance are: Commissioners Hovius, Kaley, Cramer, Henderson and McCloud
Staff present: Rob Sibley

- I. Public Participation- No members of the public were present
- II. Correspondence- Received email from Donna Culbert(Director of Health Dept) supporting the Barberry Blitz
- III. Approval of Minutes of 1/24/12 and 2/14/12- Minutes from 2/14/12: Need to change date from 2/14/10 to 2/14/12. Approved as amended. Minutes from 1/24/12: Under Admin items/setting goals- marketing brochures should be changes to Open Space marketing brochures. Open Space maps and deeds for all properties and inspections should be changed to open space maps and deeds for all properties and inspection reports for jewel properties.
- IV. Administrative Items
 1. Project Management/Task List- Commissioner Kaley had no new updates since last meeting. The meeting before that we discussed marking Middleton/Diamond Drive/Tunnel. ID large open space parcels for forest evaluation. Mark Hoseye Coach, Marlin and organize townwide Barberry fences. Middleton, Tunnel and Diamond drive are partially complete.
- V. Old Business and Action Items
 1. Fairfield Hills Open Space – No new updates to report
 2. Work Orders- No active work orders to report
 3. Open Space 37-3-14 – No new updates to report
 4. Tick Borne Disease- Commission motioned that the Education Sub-Committee work up a public education outreach based on our position paper regarding action. Commission passed unanimously
 5. Use of High School volunteers- Commission Henderson read from Chairman report that was forwarded to her. Jesp Hayes has volunteered to putting up signs on open space. Commissioner Kaley states she has a NHS senior who offered to help mark Middleton Property with her. That is scheduled for Thursday March 1st at 11:15am. Peg Reganey will continue to work with the commission on students needing community service.
 6. Discussion of NRI- Commission will work on notes, questions and comments for the next meeting. They will go over this before Bill Rute comes in to discuss at the April meeting
- VI. Committee/Staff Reports
 1. Trail Building Sub-committee- sent approved trail program outline and assessment sheet to the trail committee and no feedback as of today.
 2. Forest Evaluation- No new updates to report. Commissioner Kaley discussed the email she sent to Rob regarding the spreadsheet showing properties with 30+ acres.
 3. OS Inventory and Maintenance Progress- No new updates to report except that 2/3 of deeds have been printed. Hope to have rest of them done by the next meeting
 4. Property Marking Plans, Surveying Status - discovered some open space had not been marked off Leopard Drive. Rob looked into a complaint of a post that was put up and a homeowner wanted moved. Rob will research and move if possible.
 5. Conservation Easement on WWTP completed- Done and completed 3 weeks ago and recorded. Dave gave copy of recorded easement and Selectman signed it. Parks and Rec will be putting in a request to go 10 feet into Conservation Easement for dog park area.

6. Status of Halfway River fishing access- Rob Sibley has meeting on Thursday March 1st with DOT and DOT engineer. Jim Lapan will also be there from the DOT. Carbone, Carl from Parks and Rec and John. Engineer has to be there due to the failing culvert. DOT may do some of the road for us. They also have to approve the curb cut.
7. Iroquois invasive documentation- Rob left message for Dave Fontaine while he was in Shelton for their Solar Project and hasn't heard from him yet.
8. Education Committee: upcoming seminar, etc. and 9. Invasives sub-committee: Barberry Blitz, inspections- Commission combined these two items: Commission put together info to have Tom Worthy demonstrate the torch method to the staff of Parks and Rec. To do this we would have to go through Fire Marshals office. Discussed having public look around yards for invasives. Have handouts of the Barberry removal and alamolive garden handouts. They can contact Rob Sibley in Conservation with any questions on the use of chemicals on the plants.
9. Al's Trail- No new updates to report
10. Strategic Sub-committee- Commission decided to discuss at the next meeting
11. Federal Recreation Trails Program- No new updates to report

VII. New Business- No new business

VIII. Executive Session as needed