



**TOWN OF NEWTOWN**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**

**May 8, 2012 @ 7:00 pm**

Newtown Municipal Center, Meeting Room #3

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470

In Attendance: Commissioners Hovious, Wilson, Kaley

Staff: Lynn Kovack and Guest From Voices Paper Linda Zukauskas

**Public Participation** : There were no members of the public present

**Correspondence:** Comm Wilson announced new commissioner John Fedek who was appointed at the last Selectmen's meeting. Comm Wilson will email him with meeting dates and times, etc. Comm Hovious discussed

**Approval of Minutes of 3/13/2012 and 4/10/2012:** Not enough Comm for a vote. Will approve minutes at next meeting.

**Administrative Items**

**Project Management/Task List:** Comm Kaley gave thorough update on ongoing task list to other commissioners. Examples are mark Ridge Valley open space, monitor 2<sup>nd</sup> Horse guard location status. Leopard Drive started with marking, etc

**Old Business and Action Items:**

**Fairfield Hills Open Space** : No new updates to report since last meeting.

**Work Orders:** No new updates to report on since last meeting. Bridges on AI's trail is ongoing.

**Open Space 37-3-14** : No new updates to report since last meeting.

**Use of High School volunteers – new volunteer:** Contacted Peg Ragaini for additional volunteers from the High School. Received one response from Ryan Fitzgerald.

**Discussion of NRI:** Commissioners Hovious, Wilson and Kaley thoroughly discussed comments, concerns and questions they have on the NRI. Comm is hoping to discuss with Bill Root at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting he is scheduled to attend.

**Committee/Staff Reports**

**Trail Building Sub-committee:** No feedback from Paula regarding the proposed trail application outline as of today. Comm Hovious and Kaley are going to tag team the trails committee

**Forest Evaluation:** No new updates to report on

**OS Inventory and Maintenance Progress:** No new updates to report on

**Property Marking Plans, Surveying Status:** No new updates to report on. Will check with Rob regarding marking spreadsheet once a property has been surveyed.

**Conservation Easement on WWTP-table:** No new updates to report on

**Status of Halfway River fishing access-table:** No new updates to report on

**Iroquois invasive documentation-table:** No new updates to report on

**Education Sub-Committee**

**Meadows Follow-Up:** Rob has not met with Liz Stocker yet. He is going to get information on the High Meadow at FFH

**Pole Bridge Pamphlet:** Comm may have someone willing to do layout for us. Need to finish property transfer before moving ahead. Have to walk property with GIS/GPS for pamphlet. Goal for completion is the Fall. Also would like to have Tick info, Wild Flower info and Maps at Kiosk. Things are looking good.

**Invasive presentations to schools:** Haven't heard back from the Science Coordinators that we have contacted. Don't know if it will happen this year.

**CC Computer Training:** Comms Hovious and Wilson received training on the CC computer from Rob Sibley and was helpful.

**Invasives Sub-committee:**

**Barberry Blitz-alternatives to barberry, etc** Comm Cramer and Wilson attended the seminar on propane torch method of barberry control given by Dr. Tom Worthley on April 11. Excellent potential for barberry control. Took pictures and sent notes to the Bee for write up. Finished power point presentation on barberry/tick connection for publication on the town web site.

**Inspection of properties** Did one physical inspection and replied to several inquiries. Added wineberry to the list of common invasives in Newtown.

**Invasives Removal at Al's Trail-May 12:** Comm Wilsons paper was read on invasive removal

**Al's Trail:** No new updates to report on

**Strategic Sub-committee: Input to POCD:** No new updates to report on

**Duck Race May 26 :** Comm Wilson is still looking for volunteers to help out on that day

**Legislative: Sate Bill re Open Space:** Comm Wilson wrote to Sen McKinney in support of SB 347, concerning the State's open space plan.

**New Business:** Comm Hovious discussed open space we have off Sherman Road. He pointed out our Natural resources have been affected in some way due to a beaver dam that was removed by the state due to dam safety. Need to discuss with Rob ways of getting some notice from State prior to this being done. Comm Kaley received info from Earth day from Charter and WPKN. Charter has a post Community Bulletin board for posting. You may submit something for advertising. WPKN has a public affairs program which discusses environmental issues. Do on air interviews. That will be something good to follow up on. Pootatuck watershed association will have a film out soon. Will be about water quality in Newtown and the watershed and threats, etc.

Executive Session as needed