

**Conservation Commission  
MINUTES  
Regular Meeting – July 24, 2012 @ 7:00 pm  
Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT**

**Present:** Commissioners Cramer, Gaudet-Wilson, Henderson, Hovious (by telephone), Kaley and McLeod  
**Staff:** Tammy Hazen, Clerk

The Public Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

**ADDED ITEMS:** Commissioner Wilson added one item to the agenda under Administrative Items as #3 - Membership.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Commissioner Wilson discussed information on New England Energy & Environmental Protection Education grant. Commissioner Kaley said Scott Coleman's son is planning an Eagle Scout project to install a picnic area at FFH. They encourage volunteers to help on Saturday, July 28th between 1pm and 3pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Kaley motioned to approve the minutes of July 10, 2012, which was seconded by Commissioner Henderson. Where Steve McGuire is mentioned in the minutes, it should be written as Steve Birney. The minutes were approved as amended.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

Project Management/Task List/Calendar – No updates.

Work Orders – No updates

Membership – Commissioner Wilson said that John Feder has tendered his resignation (verbally).

**OLD BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS**

Fairfield Hills Open Space - No updates other than:

- a. Barberry Removal Project – Commissioner Wilson said that this has gone through the bidding process. Dan Holmes will be working on this project and Commissioner Cramer will contact him.
- b. Kiosks at FFH – Commissioner Cramer said she will attend a FFH Authority meeting to discuss design requirements for kiosks.
- c. Mad Dash Restoration – No updates.

High Meadow Follow-Up – Commissioner Wilson said Mr. Sibley has not spoken with the farmer yet and that in talking with Elizabeth Stocker, she is unaware of an agreement for who mows the fields. Commissioner Wilson will check with Herb Rosenthal to see if an agreement was set up during his term as First Selectman.

**COMMITTEE / STAFF REPORTS**

Conservation Easement on WWTP – P & R – No updates.

Status of Halfway River Fishing Access – No updates.

Iroquois Invasive Documentation – No updates.

Trail Building Sub-Committee – Commissioner Hovious has asked the Trail Building committee to send the Conservation Commission their meeting notices.

Forest Evaluation – No updates.

OS Inventory and Maintenance Subcommittee – Commissioner Kaley has been working on printing maps and deeds for the OS files.

Property Marking Plans, Surveying Status – No updates.

#### Education Sub-Committee

- a. Pole Bridge Preserve Pamphlet – Commissioner Kaley said she researched the parcels that comprise the preserve (date acquired and access information) and will send a draft to Commissioner Hovious. Commissioner Hovious spoke with Mr. Sibley, who strongly encouraged that the major public access should be off of Pole Bridge Road. The other access ways should be considered only neighborhood accesses. Commissioners Wilson and Kaley walked the preserve and found the meadow. They noted that the meadow species were prevalent in the area. It was noted that there are some still invasives that need to be removed. This is considered the first managed meadow on open space. It will be kept mowed and be expanded.
- b. Barberry Banner and Other AV Materials – Commissioner Wilson had some difficulty getting approvals for hanging the banner. She will check with the Board of Managers for Edmond Town Hall. Commissioner Cramer will follow up with Mr. Sibley about getting more pamphlets printed.

#### Invasives Sub-Committee

- a. Mile-A-Minute Update – Commissioner Henderson spoke with Ann Astarita who said she will do the weevil and Mile-a-Minute monitoring in the next two weeks.
- b. Letter to Landholders – Ms. Hazen handed out the list of Newtown property owners with land over 20 acres. She will send out letters, 25 at a time, at two to three week intervals.
- c. Inspection of Private Properties – Commissioner Wilson and Holly Kocet inspected a property on High Barlow Road where there was a great deal of Japanese Knotweed.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee – No Updates.

AI's Trail – No Updates.

TBDAC Follow-up – Commissioner Wilson said the Board of Selectmen has asked DEEP to provide information, perform a survey and do a deer count. The Redding survey will be used as a template. This may have a bearing on open space. Commissioner McLeod said there will be an education committee comprised of six to seven people that will be co-chaired by Judy Blanchard and Donna Culbert. Commissioner Hovious suggested the Commission do a position paper on four poster devices. Commissioner Wilson will do some research on this. It was noted that DEEP will not permit four posters on land where hunting is not permitted, but Commissioner McLeod said a property owner in Redding received permission to place a four poster on their private property.

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

Commissioner Cramer motioned to adjourn at 8:15 pm. Commissioner Kaley seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.