

Conservation Commission
MINUTES
Regular Meeting – July 8, 2013 @ 7:00 pm
Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

Present: Ann Astarita, Marj Cramer, Mary Gaudet-Wilson, and Joe Hovious; **Absent:** Bill Darin; **Staff Present:** Tammy Hazen, Clerk

These Minutes are subject to the approval of the Conservation Commission

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

CORRESPONDENCE – Ms. Wilson discussed a phone call she received from a UConn student, majoring in environmental sciences, who is looking for volunteer field work. The commissioners discussed several ideas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Hovious motioned to approve the minutes of June 25, 2013. Ms. Astarita seconded the motion. Changes are as follows: Under “Al’s Trail”, the first sentence is changed to “Ms. Wilson said she and her husband walked a portion of Al’s Trail.” The minutes were approved as amended.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Review of Other Commissions – Ms. Astarita discussed the Inland Wetlands meeting. Ms. Wilson said in a Legislative Council meeting there was a discussion of a parcel of land the town will be selling – 28 Glen Road. Mr. Hovious discussed the guided tour that Parks and Rec had on June 27th.

Task List – The commissioners reviewed and updated the task list.

Open Position – The opening for the commission includes one unaffiliated and one Republican.

Summer Schedules – No changes to the regular schedule.

OLD BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS

Fairfield Hills Open Space

1. **Kiosks** – No update.
2. **FFH Document (Meadows)** – Commissioner Astarita discussed a draft report with suggestions and information related to the meadows on campus.

Conservation Easements – Mr. Hovious said progress is being made. Chris Zakur is working with the list of easements provided by Steve Birney, along with a list from the Tax Assessor, researching information in the Town Clerk’s office.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Open Space Inventory and Maintenance Subcommittee – The commissioners discussed the updated inventory list, more work needs to be completed. They discussed mowing of a parcel of open space with concerns over nesting birds. Ms. Astarita will research and provide more information on nesting birds.

Education Subcommittee

1. **Development of Website** – Ms. Wilson discussed the need for GIS to install the software on the commission's laptop.
2. **Pamphlet on Wetlands** – The pamphlet has been completed. It can be placed in the kiosks, in the library and Municipal Center, etc. Ms. Hazen will print 100 copies.

Invasives Subcommittee

1. **Invasives at Fairfield Hills (Japanese Knotweed)** – Ms. Wilson spoke with Dan Holmes. They will walk the site with Ms. Cramer and review other invasives near the East Meadow.
2. **Invasives Work this Summer** – Ms. Wilson said Riccio's Landscaping will work on Al's Trail first, then Pole Bridge Preserve.
3. **Possible Town Task Force/Subcommittee** – Ms. Wilson will discuss this with the First Selectman.
4. **Iroquois Report** – Ms. Wilson reviewed the Iroquois maintenance report and questioned the notation that it would be mowed every 5 to 7 years.

POCD (490 Status) – No update.

Al's Trail – The commission discussed options for support of Al's Trail.

NRI – Mr. Hovious discussed different sections and the best approach to handle getting it loaded on the commission's web page. The Land Use Staff can make .PDFs of items not in .PDF form. Commissioners Wilson and Hovious will place comments in their sections and forward to Ms. Hazen.

NEW BUSINESS

After no further discussion, Mr. Hovious motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:37. Ms. Cramer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mr. Hovious motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:30. The motion was seconded by Ms. Astarita. The motion was approved.

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Hazen