

Conservation Commission
MINUTES
Regular Meeting – January 28, 2014 @ 7:00 pm
Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

Present: Ann Astarita, Marjorie Cramer, Bill Darrin, Steven Gogliettino, Joe Hovious, Karlyn Sturmer and Mary Gaudet-Wilson; **Staff Present:** Rob Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning and Land Use

These Minutes are subject to the approval of the Conservation Commission

The Public Meeting was then called to order at 7:45 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Ms. Wilson motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:00 pm, which was seconded by Ms. Cramer. The commission went into Executive Session. Mr. Hovious motioned to exit Executive Session which was seconded by Ms. Sturmer. The Executive Session ended at 7:45 pm.

Ms. Wilson motioned to return to the public meeting. Motion was seconded by Ms. Astarita. The motion was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE – The commissioners and Mr. Sibley discussed a notice sent by Michael Mazzucco regarding two applications in Bethel that is within 500 feet of the Newtown border.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Ms. Astarita motioned to approve the minutes of January 13, 2014. Ms. Cramer seconded the motion. Mr. Hovious and Ms. Wilson abstained. The changes are as follows: On the last paragraph of the first page, under Fairfield Hills, there is a need for a second parenthesis. Commissioner Hovious abstained. The minutes were approved with corrections. Ms. Wilson motioned to approve the minutes of January 23, 2014. Ms. Cramer seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Review of Other Commissions: The commissioners discussed items reviewed by other commissions. Mr. Hovious was reappointed to the Conservation Commission at the Board of Selectman's meeting.

Task List: Mr. Hovious said this is being worked on. Ms. Astarita will take this over.

Budget: Ms. Wilson reworked the budget to be sent to Parks and Rec. Mr. Hovious reviewed some adjustments to the budget items requested.

OLD BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS

Fairfield Hills

Meadows Initiative / High Meadow (Bike Race) – Ms. Cramer said the Fairfield Hills Authority was receptive to the open space portion of the revised Master Plan. The West Meadow was discussed. Mr. Sibley will check to see if a map was recorded in the Town Clerk's office. There was discussion about open space being held in perpetuity.

Revised FFH Master Plan – See above.

Corn Fields – Item tabled.

Conservation Easements – Mr. Hovious said he, Ms. Sturmer and Mr. Gogliettino reviewed the process of researching Conservation Easements. There were approximately 150 more properties to research.

Meadow on 38-9-34 Riverside Road – No update .

Pole Bridge Preserve – Mr. Sibley discussed a draft map for the Pole Bridge Preserve for the commissioners to review and comment on. This will be given to Ms. Hazen to add to the back of the brochure.

Possible Bee/Butterfly Sanctuary – Ms. Astarita discussed the purpose of having a sanctuary but further information on a potential model has been tabled.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Open Space Inventory and Maintenance Subcommittee – Mr. Hovious said he met with Ms. Hazen who is updating the excel spreadsheet / database.

Consolidation of Contiguous Open Space Parcels – The commissioners met in a special meeting on January 23, 2014 to review potential contiguous open space parcels. The commissioners discussed writing letters with non-buildable land to see if they wanted to donate those parcels to the Town to create contiguous open space parcels.

Education Subcommittee

1. Development of Website – No updates.
2. Earth Day – Ms. Sturmer brought up the Commission's participation at the Earth Day fair in Newtown in light of a comment that the Commission might consider having another event on open space the same day. It was decided to address Earth Day activities at the next meeting.

Invasives Subcommittee – Tabled

Al's Trail – Tabled

NEW BUSINESS – Tabled

Ms. Cramer motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Darrin. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Hazen