

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting – December 8, 2014 @ 7:00 pm
Meeting Room #3, Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT**

Present: Ann Astarita, Bill Darrin, Steven Gogliettino and James Ryan; **Not Present:** Karlyn Sturmer;
Also Present: George Benson, Director of Planning; Tammy Hazen, Clerk; and Joe Hovious.

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Ms. Astarita called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

CORRESPONDENCE – None

ADMINISTRATIVE – Mr. Benson and the commissioners formally thanked Mr. Hovious for all his years on the Conservation Commission by presenting him with a plaque that read *“Certificate of Appreciation Presented to Joe Hovious In Recognition of over Eight Years of Dedicated Service to the Town of Newtown's Conservation Commission Working Diligently to Acquire, Preserve and Protect Open Space and Natural Resources”*. Mr. Benson thanked him for all his help as a commissioner and his counsel has been important to the water quality issues and to the macroinvertebrate sampling, etc.. He has contributed a great deal with Trout Unlimited and PWA. He hopes he will continue to assist in these important issues. Mr. Hovious said it's been interesting but sometimes things go in different directions. He thanked the commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Darrin motioned to approve the minutes of 11/10/14 as written. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion. Ms. Astarita abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Review of Other Commissions – No update.

Budget – No update.

2015 Calendar – Ms. Astarita motioned to approve the 2015 calendar and will maintain the schedule of 2nd Monday and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Mr. Darrin seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS

OS Parcels – The commission discussed assisting Terry Hennessey on equestrian trails. Mr. Ryan will contact her.

Reduction of Invasive Species – No update.

Conservation Education – No update.

Outreach – Ms. Astarita discussed the CT Farmland Trust.

Monitor Key Natural Resources – Mr. Darrin said he is now a member of the Newtown Forest Association.

STAFF REPORT – Mr. Benson distributed a memo he received from Rob Sibley regarding plans to pump water out of the Plymouth Hall’s basement. Water quality sampling was complete with test results showing the water is safe (Exhibit 1). Mr. Benson explained that the entire stormwater system is being evaluated on the Fairfield Hills campus. He distributed and explained the water sampling results taken from Deep Brook (Exhibit 2). Mr. Benson then reviewed and explained plans from the 1950’s showing the stormwater systems. Water sampling will be done from the 36” pipes at sumps and manhole covers. He will keep the commission informed of test results.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Goggliettino noted that he will not re-up his position on the commission after the first of the year. Ms. Astarita announced her resignation to the commission.

Mr. Darrin motioned to adjourn at 7:57pm which was seconded by Mr. Ryan. The motion was unanimously passed.

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Hazen