

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of June 23, 2015 at 7:00 pm

Meeting Room #3, Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

These Minutes are Subject to Approval by the Conversation Commission

In Attendance: Karlyn Sturmer, Mark Boland, Thomas Philbrick

Staff: Dawn Fried, Clerk

Ms. Sturmer opened the meeting at 7:08 pm.

Public Participation

Lisa Wahle, Contract Biologist, Marlborough, CT, representing the Ct. Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection, gave a presentation on the native New England Cottontail and spoke about the decline of the species. Ms. Wahle proposed using the Stonebridge Trail area as a viable option for creating a habitat for the NE Cottontail which would include a tree cutting and forest management plan. The Commission was interested in the project and asked Ms. Wahle to submit a management plan for their review.

Approval of Minutes of 5/26/15:

Changes are as follows: 1) Under **In Attendance**, delete "CT" 2) Under **Communications**, replace the paragraph with "A letter was received from KASL, LLC regarding the potential purchase of "Lot 23 of the Preserve at Newtown" by the town. The parcel is located on Robin Hill and consists of 42.5 acres. A walk of the property will take place on Wednesday, May 27 at 5:30." 3) Under **Administrative Items**, replace sentence 2 and 3 with "Al's Trails has one problem area where you cannot walk the trail without entering private property adjacent to the trail. Mr. Hovious negotiated a deal whereby the town would transfer town owned property containing road frontage to the property owner in exchange for the acreage adjacent to Al's Trail". 4) Under **Action Items**, First sentence "CAR" should be "CARE". The paragraph "Reduction of Invasive Species" should be eliminated. 5) Under **New Business**, "Buesinees" should be "Business", under **Trout Unlimited** take out the word "nice", take out "having developed up stream" and replace with "development on land that drains into Deep Brook", under **High and West Meadows**, switch East and West, after "Board of Selectmen" add "through George Benson". Under **Kiosk**, change "Mr." to "Ms." Ms. Sturmer motioned to approve amended minutes, Mr. Philbrick so moved, Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor.

Review of other Commissions

Moving forward the Conservation Commission will follow the business of other town boards. The Commission will review agendas and minutes which will allow them to stay informed on business matters and ongoing town activities. Each commissioner was designated a specific board to follow.

Care and Custody of Open Space

The Commission discussed how to be more pro-active on O.S. properties. Mr. Philbrick suggested compiling a list of O.S properties, taking site walks and implementing a management plan.

High Meadows & Meadow

The Commission discussed a drafted letter written by Ms. Sturmer in regards to the mowing activities at High Meadows. The letter was approved by the Commission and will be presented to the Board of Selectman.

The “Declaration Document Concerning the High and East Meadows” was presented and discussed. The Commissioners would like to follow up on this letter which was written in 2014. Mr. Darrin, not in attendance, will be asked to contact Mr. Benson to discuss the status of the letter.

Kiosk

It was agreed upon by the Commission to schedule site walks to familiarize themselves with the kiosks and the properties they are managing known as Stone Bridge, Pond Brook and Pole Bridge. The first site walks to Pole Bridge and Pond Brook are scheduled for June 17th at 9:00am at the Pole Bridge entrance. The Stone Bridge site walk will be completed in the near future.

Adjournment Mr. Philbrick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Mr. Boland seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Dawn Fried