

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting of August 25, 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:** Bill Darrin, Mark Boland, Jim Ryan, Karlyn Sturmer, James Ryan  
**Staff:** Robert Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning & Land Use, Dawn Fried, Clerk

Mr. Darrin opened the meeting at 7:02 pm.

**Public Participation**

Mr. Michael McCarthy, Cross Cut Tree and Land Management, Newtown, CT, spoke at the meeting. He asked the Commission to consider his proposal to start a Selective Timber Harvest program on town open space. Mr. Darrin felt the Commissioners needed more time for consideration and would review the Yale Study as a reference. Mr. Darrin asked Mr. McCarthy to return to the next CC meeting.

Ms. Sturmer suggested forming a subcommittee to discuss Forestry Management matters. The Commissioners agreed to have a Commission meeting to discuss only Forestry Management on O.S. They set the meeting for September 8, 2015.

**Correspondence**

The Commissioners discussed the memorandum titled "Declaration Document Concerning the High and East Meadows", dated 7/28/15. Most Commissioners agreed with the process in the memorandum and would review the process if it did not work for the Conservation Commission.

Ms. Sturmer was concerned that the Conservation Commission's role with open space has diminished from the original proposal letter, dated 5/12/14. The Conservation Commission does not have the final approval with the new declaration and Ms. Sturmer feels this is a significant change.

**Approval of Minutes of 7/28/15:**

Changes are as follows: Under "Executive Session" change "Darren" to "Darrin". Under "Adjournment" change "Darren" to "Darrin". Mr. Darrin motioned to approve amended minutes. Ms. Sturmer seconded. All in favor.

**Review of Other Commissions**

Nothing significant to report on the other Commissions.

Mr. Darrin attended a seminar given by the CT Land Conservation Council regarding conservation easement training. Mr. Darrin shared the information with the other Commissioners.

## **Budget**

Mr. Sibley spoke about the budget and monies allocated. The Commissioners discussed various ways to purchase materials to improve open space areas, trails, and meadows. Some suggestions are to repair and add new signs, use markers to distinguish OS properties and to add informational kiosks.

Mr. Darrin made a motion to authorize the amount, not to exceed, \$450 be allocated to repair the Pole Bridge sign and resupply O.S. sign markers. Mr. Ryan so moved. All in favor.

## **Action Items**

O.S. Parcels – Mr. Sibley stated that he received the O.S. lot line revision parcels and would begin recording them.

Mr. Sibley proposed a walk through Rocky Glen State Forest in the beginning of November.

Mr. Sibley spoke about the Care and Custody form. The form is used by the Commissioners during site walks, trails and OS properties to note areas that need improvement or repair, downed limbs or trees, and other points of interest.

The Eagle Scout, discussed at the last meeting, has decided to build a kiosk at Stone Bridge.

## **New Business**

Mr. Darrin distributed the “Draft – 2015 Conservation Commission Annual Report”. He asked for the Commissioners to please review. The report will be discussed at the next CC meeting.

Mr. Philbrick spoke about a Conservation Biology class he will be conducting at Western CT State University. He discussed the possibility of student groups studying local meadows and vernal pools. Mr. Sibley stated there were many vernal pools in Newtown. The Commission agreed this would be a beneficial project.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Darrin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Mr. Ryan so moved. All in favor.