

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of September 22, 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, Karlyn Sturmer, Mark Boland

Staff: Robert Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning & Land Use, Dawn Fried, Clerk

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

Public Participation

Kiera O'Sullivan, a Newtown Girl Scout, would like to earn her "Silver Award". Miss O'Sullivan proposed planting milk weed on an O.S. parcel to attract and feed the endangered Monarch butterflies. The Commission asked Miss O'Sullivan to research the growing conditions of milk weed, look for a viable partial of land, and design a small descriptive sign for the area. The Commission invited Ms. O'Sullivan back after her research was complete.

Ms. Lisa Wahle, Biologist, Marlborough, CT, spoke about the endangered NE Cottontail and a proposed plan to create a protective habitat on the Stonebridge O.S. property. Ms. Whale suggested a forestry management plan which would allow for the regeneration of new growth and a dense thicket for the rabbits. Ms. Whale felt 10 acres would be ideal. The Commission will consider the plan.

Approval of Minutes of 8/25/15 and 9/8/15:

Changes are as follows: Under "Minutes of 8/25, Budget" change "so moved" to "seconded". Under "Minutes of 8/25, Adjournment" change "so moved" to "seconded". Mr. Darrin requested a motion to approve amended minutes of 8/25/15 and the minutes of 9/8/15. Ms. Sturmer so moved. Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor.

Review of Other Commissions

Ms. Sturmer read the minutes from the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission. Ms. Sturmer was concerned with the possible use of High Meadows as an option for the memorial site.

Budget

Mr. Sibley requested \$950 for the replacement of the Pole Bridge sign that was destroyed by a car. Mr. Darrin requested a motion. Mr. Boland moved to approve the allocation of \$950 from the budget to replace the Pole Bridge sign. Ms. Sturmer seconded. All in favor.

O.S. Parcels

Mr. Sibley discussed the following:

- transfers of the newly acquired Open Space parcels
- suggested site walk of the Walnut Tree property in mid-November
- highlighted O.S. properties on the GIS map
- status of pending O.S. properties
- reviewed equestrian trail

Executive Session

Mr. Darrin motioned to go in to Executive Session. Mr. Boland so moved. Ms. Sturmer seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Darrin motioned to approve O.S. #15-03. Mr. Boland so moved. Ms. Sturmer seconded. All in favor.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.