

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting of October 27, 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, Thomas Philbrick, James Ryan **Staff:** Dawn Fried, Clerk

Mr. Darrin opened the meeting at 6:58 pm.

**Public Participation**

Ms. Terry Hennessey, Eden Hill Road, Newtown, addressed the Commission regarding access to Open Space property. Ms. Hennessey would like the Commission to approve an accessway connecting Oak Ridge Road to the adjacent O.S. parcel. The path has been marked as O.S. but has never been established. The Commission will confer with Robert Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning & Land Use, as to the options for clearing the path and the associated costs. Mr. Darrin requested a motion. Mr. Boland moved to approve the re-establishment of access to Open Space off of Oak Ridge Road. Mr. Philbrick seconded. All in favor.

**Approval of Minutes of September 22, 2015**

Changes are as follows: Under "Public Participation" change all "Whale" to "Wahle". Mr. Darrin requested a motion to approve amended minutes of September 22, 2015. Mr. Boland so moved. All in favor.

**Review of Other Commissions**

- Mr. Philbrick noted the Inland Wetland public hearings regarding Covered Bridge, LLC and Grace Family Church. Mr. Philbrick stated the Conservation Commission has no direct jurisdiction over those projects.
- Mr. Boland noted the Fairfield Hills Commission is establishing water fountains for dogs by the Victory Garden.

**Budget**

The Commissioners agreed that top priority should be placed on establishing and maintaining clear accessways leading to all O.S. parcels throughout Newtown. Due to a limited budget and no earmarking of funds, the Commissioners are concerned with the costs related to clearing and maintaining these accessways.

## **Action Items**

The Commission discussed the proposed N.E. Cottontail plan presented at the last CC meeting by Ms. Lisa Wahle, Biologist, Marlborough, CT. The Commission also discussed possible grants being made available from Iroquois Gas that would subsidize a forestry plan on the Stonebridge O.S. parcel. Mr. Boland will reach out to forest management consultants regarding sample plans and cost estimates. The objective is to create a young forest habitat to protect various animals including the New England Cottontail.

## **O.S. Parcels**

The Commission discussed the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial's use of High Meadow as a potential memorial site. A letter was drafted inviting the Chair and Vice Chair to the next Conservation Commission meeting on November 9, 2015 to discuss this possibility.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.