

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of January 26, 2016 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:** Jim Ryan and Thomas Philbrick

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

Mr. Ryan opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

**COMMISSION APPOINTMENT**

Mr. Ryan welcomed Jennifer Padilla, a potential new member of the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Ryan spoke about the scheduled CC meetings for 2016. He suggested the first meeting of every month be used to discuss specific topics and goals for 2016.

Mr. Ryan asked Mr. Sibley to give a brief overview of the duties of the Conservation Commission and Newtown's Open Space (O.S.). Mr. Sibley spoke about the history of the CC, gave a description of Newtown's O.S. and reviewed the O.S. map

Mr. Ryan asked Mr. Sibley to give a brief overview of the appointment process. Mr. Sibley spoke about the process to serve, its cyclical nature and the preservation of recorded history from past Commissions. If an individual is interested in serving on the Conservation Commission they must contact the First Selectman.

Mr. Ryan stated the nice thing about this Commission is that everyone brings something different. Mr. Ryan is looking forward to Ms. Padilla joining the Commission.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**Potential CC Invitations**

The Commission discussed the benefits of inviting other Newtown groups and organizations to the CC meetings. Mr. Sibley created a list of various groups and organizations with common goals. Mr. Philbrick agreed there are many groups with common interests and different perspectives and would be beneficial to work together. Constant communication is an important process.

**Review of Other Commissions**

Mr. Philbrick briefly discussed the Inland Wetland Commission meetings on December 9, 2015 and January 13, 2016. Mr. Philbrick stated the IW applications presented at those meetings did not have a significant impact to the CC.

Mr. Ryan spoke about the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission (SHPMC). Mr. Ryan recently contacted Kyle Lyddy, chair of the SHPMC. Mr. Lyddy invited Mr. Ryan to attend meetings and work sessions to better understand the project. Mr. Ryan will be reporting back to the CC with the status of SHPMC meetings. Mr. Ryan appreciates that the SHPMC has made a commitment to the CC and will involve the CC in the process. Mr. Ryan circulated the minutes from the SHPMC meeting on January 14, 2016.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

The Commission accepted and recommended the appointment of Ms. Jennifer Padilla. A vote will be taken at the next Conservation Commission meeting.

### **O.S. Parcels**

Mr. Sibley explained the process of hiring surveyors to stake O.S. properties and the ongoing process of putting up signs for the public.

Mr. Sibley spoke about the Chestnut Hill property. The 38-acre parcel was purchased in 2014. It abuts another O.S parcel and when combined equals 79 total acres. The surveyors recently completed staking the property. The property is ready for trails, signs, a kiosk and a few possible parking spaces on Chestnut Knoll's cul-de-sac. The Commission discussed a site walk for the Chestnut Hill property.

Mr. Sibley gave a brief overview of the grant process. The grant process takes between 12 and 18 months before it is finalized. After the grant money is awarded the State requires a sign for the O.S. property. Newtown has received four grants in the last ten years; Pole Bridge, Laurel Trail, Ferris and Chestnut Hill. Signs for Pole Bridge and Laurel Trail are complete.

Mr. Sibley spoke about the Loveland O.S. parcel on Rt. 34 which is 13 acres. A three-car parking space is currently being worked on and a kiosk will be added. Mr. Sibley recommended a site walk for this property, as well.

### **Stone Bridge Open Space Parcel**

Mr. Ryan spoke about Jeremy Clark, Clark Forestry Services, and his recent presentation to the CC regarding a forest management plan. Mr. Ryan would like the Commission's consent to prepare a request for a proposal from Mr. Clark.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Discussion of the selection of a site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate by the state or a political subdivision of the state when publicity regarding such site, lease, sale, purchase or construction would adversely impact the price of such site, lease, sale, purchase or construction until such time as all of the property has been acquired or all proceedings or transactions concerning same have been terminated or abandoned. Donation of Open Space to town.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.