

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of April 26, 2016 at 7:00 pm
Meeting Room #3, Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

These Minutes are Subject to Approval by the Conservation Commission

In Attendance: Tom Philbrick, Cindy Joyce, Jennifer Padilla
Staff: Robert Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning & Land Use, Dawn Fried, Clerk

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

Mr. Philbrick served as acting Chair in Mr. Ryan's absence.

Review of Other Commissions

Inland Wetlands – Mr. Philbrick had nothing to report.

Planning and Zoning (P&Z) – Ms. Joyce presented the P&Z minutes. Mr. Sibley explained the purpose of the P&Z mandatory referrals and Newtown's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

New Business

CC Website

The Commission discussed the conservation website.

Items discussed:

- Purpose of the website
- Possible intern from Western CT. State University (WCSU)
- Focus and duties of WCSU intern
- Intern's supervisor
- Web page designer
- Topics and information for website
- Access to webpage
- Overseer of webpage
- Available funds for outsourcing
- Commission's input
- Maintenance and updating of website

The Commission will continue the website discussion at the next CC meeting.

Earth Day Synopsis

Ms. Padilla gave an overview of Earth Day on April 23. Ms. Padilla felt the Conservation booth was not well attended and was "lack luster". Ms. Padilla made suggestions to draw more people for next year. The Commission discussed different ways to attract various groups of all ages. Some ideas were adding activities for children, incorporating an educational component, discussions of outreach to include the community and distribution of updated handouts. Ms. Padilla thanked Mr. Sibley for purchasing the conservation tent.

Agenda for May 9th

The Commission discussed various ways to reach out to the community. Mr. Philbrick would like to add "Outreach" to the next agenda. The components under "Outreach" would be staff tours, materials, Stone Bridge and webpage.

Mr. Philbrick would also like to add "Stone Bridge" to the next agenda. The components under "Stone Bridge" would be grant proposal and timeline.

Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Sibley spoke about an Eagle Scout building a kiosk at the Stone Bridge site next to the parking area. This will be a great addition to the area and will tie-in with the Stone Bridge project. Mr. Sibley is hoping the project will start in a couple of months.

Misc.

At the next CC meeting Mr. Sibley would like to take the Commissioners on "a tour" of the Land Use office and basement. The purpose of the "tour" is to show the Commissioners the information available to them regarding Open Space and conservation.

Adjournment

Mr. Philbrick requested a motion to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Joyce so moved. Ms. Padilla seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Fried, Clerk