

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of May 9, 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: Jim Ryan, Tom Philbrick, Cindy Joyce, Mark Boland (departed at 7:30 pm), Karlyn Sturmer (arrived at 7:17 pm)
Staff: Dawn Fried, Clerk

Mr. Ryan opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Public Participation

Linda Hess, 5 Cornfield Ridge Road, Newtown, spoke about metal stakes marking the Open Space (O.S.) easement starting on Castle Hill Road and ending at Old Castle Drive. Ms. Hess stated that the stakes pose a safety issue for people walking in the grassy area at night because they are not visible. Ms. Hess also stated that the stakes are “ugly”. Ms. Hess recommended having better signage for the O.S. easement. Mr. Boland will drive by the O.S. area and report back to Commissioners at the next meeting. Mr. Sibley will be notified of Ms. Hess’s concerns.

Approval of Minutes for April 11, 2016

Mr. Ryan requested a motion to approve the minutes from April 11, 2016. Mr. Philbrick so moved. Ms. Joyce seconded. All in favor.

Action Items

Mr. Boland spoke to the Commission about his meeting with Cleo Conk on Earth Day. Ms. Conk specializes in birds and would like to do a bird survey at High Meadow. The Commission agreed that would be a great study. Mr. Boland will reach out to her.

Review of Other Commissions

Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission (SHPMC): The Commission questioned why the SHPMC hasn’t invited the Conservation Commission on any site walks. Mr. Ryan stated that he and Mr. Lyddy have been in contact and Mr. Ryan will reach out to Mr. Lyddy regarding site walks. Ms. Sturmer also noted that the Parks and Rec Chairman was invited to a SHPMC site walk and Parks and Rec has been involved in the process.

Mr. Ryan asked the Commission if they would be interested in inviting Gary Sorge to a CC meeting. Mr. Ryan felt this would be a way to be involved in the SHPMC process. The majority of the Commission agreed to invite Mr. Sorge to a CC meeting. Mr. Ryan will reach out to Mr. Sorge.

Planning and Zoning: Ms. Joyce reviewed the Planning and Zoning minutes and stated that there were no issues affecting O.S.

Parks and Rec: Ms. Sturmer spoke about the Fruit Tree Trail and will follow up at the next meeting.

Inland Wetlands: Mr. Boland spoke about an Iroquois project that was approved by the Inland Wetland Commission.

On a separate note, Mr. Boland also mentioned that the Iroquois grant application was submitted prior to the deadline on May 1, 2016. If the Iroquois grant is awarded to the CC the funds will be allocated to the Stone Bridge forestry project. The Commission will reach out to Jeremy Clark of Clark Forestry Services to start the process.

Action Items

New Commissioner

The Commission discussed inviting Chris Smith, a potential commissioner, to the next CC meeting. The Commission would like to review his resume. Mr. Ryan will reach out to him.

Outreach

CC Website

The Commission discussed the website:

- Outsourcing
- Focus
- O.S. Information
- Possible WCSU Intern.
- Why? What? How to create?
- Available funds
- Coordinator
- How to move forward

Ms. Joyce will contact the prior website coordinator (ask.joanne) for information needed to access the website and general questions regarding website maintenance.

New Business

Intern from WCSU

The Commission discussed the intern's duties:

- Cataloging O.S.
- Taking pictures
- Mapping
- Synopsis of O.S.
- Focus on parking and trail entrances
- Working with the CC

Misc.

The Commission would like to discuss budget concerns and the status of the trail markings with Rob Sibley at the next CC meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Ryan requested a motion to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Philbrick so moved. Ms. Joyce seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Fried, Clerk