

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of May 24, 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, Mark Boland, Karlyn Sturmer (arrived at 7:49 pm), Cindy Joyce (arrived 8:01 pm)

Staff: Robert Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning & Land Use (departed at 7:45 pm), Dawn Fried, Clerk

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

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

**Approval of Minutes for April 26, 2016**

Mr. Philbrick requested a motion to approve the minutes from April 26, 2016. Ms. Joyce so moved. Mr. Philbrick seconded. All in favor. The minutes from April 26, 2016 were approved.

**Approval of Minutes for May 9, 2016**

Mr. Philbrick requested a motion to approve the minutes from May 9, 2016. Ms. Joyce so moved. Mr. Boland seconded. All in favor. The minutes from May 9, 2016 were approved.

**Action Items**

Mr. Sibley gave a synopsis of the Conservation Commission (CC). He described how the Conservation Commission was created in 2005 after separating from the Inland Wetland Commission. Mr. Sibley gave a Power Point presentation titled "Newtown Conservation Commission Responsibilities, Reports and Recommendations". The presentation detailed the history and responsibilities of the CC.

Mr. Sibley spoke about the Open Space (O.S.) process and the resources available to the Commission. He distributed a working O.S. spreadsheet titled "Conservation Commission Open Space", detailing the acquired O.S. parcels in Newtown. He described the files available to the Commission which are located in the Land Use office and gave an overview of the GIS system which is available on-line. Mr. Sibley also reviewed the O.S. budget and discussed the O.S. expenditures to date. Mr. Sibley stated if the remaining funds are not spent the funds will not be allocated in the next fiscal year.

Mr. Sibley described the signage process and brought in samples to show the Commission which signs should be posted on O.S. parcels and trails. Additional signs have been ordered and the Commission will be able to post the signs where necessary.

Mr. Sibley spoke about a recent hike he went on to locate Cardamine douglassii. He also showed a video of a Bard owl he came across on an O.S. parcel. Mr. Sibley pointed out how beautiful Newtown's natural resources are and how the CC encompasses many varied duties regarding O.S parcels.

## **Review of Other Commissions**

Planning and Zoning: Ms. Joyce reviewed the Planning and Zoning minutes and questioned the comments made regarding Open Space.

Parks and Rec: Ms. Sturmer is drafting a letter regarding the Fruit Trail and the CC's future expectations to use native plants and the benefits these plants would have in Newtown.

Inland Wetlands: Mr. Philbrick reviewed the Inland Wetland minutes and briefly discussed the Hunter Ridge cluster housing application.

## **Action Items**

**New Commissioner** - Mr. Philbrick will contact Chris Smith, a potential commissioner, and formally invite Mr. Smith to the next CC meeting and request his resume for review.

**Stone Bridge** - Mr. Boland discussed the Iroquois grant and is hoping to hear from Iroquois soon regarding the funds for the Stone Bridge project. Mr. Sibley recollected the grant taking 45 days from the submitted date which was May 1, 2016. Mr. Boland will reach out to Jeremy Clark regarding a firm estimate on the forest management plan.

## **Outreach**

**CC Website** – Ms. Joyce updated the Commission on her revisions to the website. Ms. Joyce contacted the prior website coordinator, ask.Joanne, and updated the commissioners' names as well as made general corrections. Ms. Joyce asked the Commission what the plans were going forward in regards to the website's format, content and accomplishments. She stated that the website is limited at this time. A subcommittee was suggested as well as a working session to concentrate on improving the website as a group. The Commission discussed June 13, 2016 as a working session in lieu of a regular CC meeting.

## **New Business**

Ms. Sturmer discussed a potential O.S. parcel. She stated the price dropped and it was 12 acres. The Commission will discuss at the next CC meeting.

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Philbrick requested a motion to adjourn the CC meeting. Mr. Boland so moved. Ms. Joyce seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dawn Fried, Clerk