

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting of June 13, 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, Karlyn Sturmer, Cindy Joyce

Staff: Robert Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning & Land Use

Mr. Ryan opened the meeting at 7:03 pm.

The Commission had a moment of silence in honor of the Orlando victims and their families.

Public Participation:

Mr. Chris Smith, prospective Conservation Commissioner, gave an overview of his bio. The Commission and Mr. Smith had a lengthy discussion regarding the CC's duties.

Mr. Mike Boyle from the EDC Commission discussed AI's Trails and how it can benefit the commerce in Sandy Hook. He stated that the trails would lead people to Sandy Hook and would create more business. Mr. Boyle also spoke about the importance of making the community more aware of the trails. Mr. Ryan invited Mr. Boyle back in four to six months.

Ms. Linda Zukauskas from the Voices Newspaper.

Action Items

Mr. Sibley gave an overview of the following:

Open Space – Marking of land, boundaries and signage.

GIS – To better monitor trail systems. The GIS department is establishing a program for CC to remap and mark trails and OS parcels. Eventually there will be a GIS link on the CC website. There is a trailway layer on the GIS program but Mr. Sibley would like that updated with new information. The IT department will create an AI's Trail map.

Boy Scouts – There are three upcoming projects: Stonebridge kiosk, two parking spots and a trash clean-up day. The Boy Scouts will contact Mr. Sibley on start dates.

Grant for 300 Berkshire Road for a parking area is completed. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony in August. Mr. Sibley would like to incorporate the Eagle Scout kiosk project.

Mr. Sibley spoke about a complaint regarding an O.S. parcel along Riverside Road. He will follow up next week.

Mr. Sibley stated that all parcels have unique ID numbers linked to the database. There are also hard files in the cabinet in alphabetical order.

The Halfway River grant is complete. The Chestnut Hill matching grant is still in the process. The O.S. matching grants are the largest grants the town utilizes. Newtown has been awarded close to a million dollars over the last decade towards O.S. parcels. Mr. Sibley reviewed the process with signage, closing of easement, surveying and recording.

Al's Trails - A Boy Scout will be sending Mr. Sibley a proposal on cleaning up an area of Al's Trails and linking a section of the trail. The portion of the trail is near Walnut Tree. The project will start this fall.

Executive Session

Mr. Ryan requested a motion to open Executive Session. Ms. Sturmer so moved. Mr. Philbrick seconded. All in favor. Executive Session started at 8:07 p.m.

Mr. Ryan requested a motion to close Executive Session. Ms. Sturmer so moved. Mr. Philbrick seconded. All in favor. Executive Session closed at 8:55 p.m.

Commissioner Appointment

Mr. Ryan requested a motion to appoint Chris Smith to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Philbrick so moved. Ms. Sturmer seconded. All in favor.

Action Items

The Commission discussed the Newtown Forestry Management Plan and the allocated funds. Mr. Sibley stated there is \$2,800 remaining in the CC fund. Those funds will be no longer be available after July 1, 2016. Additional funds will be available in the new fiscal year.

The Commission discussed the CC web site for the remaining of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Fried, Clerk