

NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
February 26, 2017 @ 6:00 pm
Minutes

Mission: For the development, conservation, supervision, and regulation of natural and historic resources, including water resources, within its territorial limits. (adopted September 2007)

Call to order: 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Bill Ricker, Arnie Vlieks, Doug Farrand, Tony Rose, Mike Charnetski

Regrets: Steve Colgan

Citizen Comments: None

Review of January 2017 Minutes: Postponed till March 2017 meeting.

Ongoing Business:

Updates:

- Stewart Hill Preserve – Must spend 1-2 hours snipping small scrub trees from the newly diverted trail and remark “blue” blazes while spraying over the old tree markings.
 - Schedule next work day (potential 04Mar2017 / 11Mar2017).
- First Selectman recreating the misplaced Fire Fly Farm folder.
- Arnie & Bill measured another 5 trees and now need to weed out those that don’t “measure up” to others of their species.
 - Discussed potential white cedar candidates
 - Next steps to include comparing current curated list of notable specimen trees in N.Stonington with published list and confirm vs. Conn College Arboretum archive.
 - Explore sharing local notable tree information via Wheeler Library Website
- Chester Maine Bridle Trail – No word yet on the petition. Still on hold.
 - First Selectman’s correspondence regarding progress shared with commission, discussions with abutting landowners, Jonathan Edwards, etc.
- New trail signs.
 - Numerous signs made of locally sourced cedar and pine were created by commissioner Charnetski for trail markers, etc.
- First Selectman response to water tower/land trade e-mail.
 - Discussion – Property behind EMS property (potential site) will require re-evaluation to determine suitable for goals of siting tower prior to approaching state for any potential land trade.
- First Selectman response to drone purchase/lease e-mail
 - Revisit benefits/ interest in drone for town use
 - Discussion of merits of lease vs. buy (or pay for service) of drone use in conservation easement inspection, additional town uses (surveys, etc.)

- Follow-up on Assekong property for sale/ trade

- Town will not sell the property. Further discussion/vote external to conservation commission confirmed no interest in selling town-owned land.

New Business:

- Plan of Conservation & Recreation Lands review.
 - Discussion of Conservation and Recreation and development of action plan:
 - Potential Goals: Consider Trash Pick-up drive? Engage Lake associations?
 - Prepare to discuss annual goals for 2017 at Mar/Apr meetings.
- Budget/Expenditures.
 - Endorsement of dues paid to CACIWIC and Land conservation council by all members present (none opposed).

Handouts:

- Audubon, Connecticut State of the Birds

Correspondence:

- Avalonia support letter – Previously endorsed with enthusiasm via email correspondence by quorum. Additional discussion of merits of properties and how they fit into long term conservation (greenways/corridors) goals were also discussed.
- Aquarion 2017 awards letter (potential grant application discussed)

Adjournment

7:30 PM

NEXT MEETING IS March 23rd @ 6:00pm