

NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

July 28, 2016 @ 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: 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Bill Ricker, Arnie Vlieks, Doug Farrand, Steve Colgan, Mike Charnetski

Regrets: Tony Rose

Citizen Comments: None

Introduction of Guest: Lindsay Suhr, Director of Land Conservation, CT Forest & Parks Association and Clare Cain – trail stewardship coordinator.

- CFPA is a statewide non-profit – established in 1895. Properties mainly in central and northern CT. In charge of managing blue diamond hiking trail. 825 miles of trails across the state. Land owner outreach is a major undertaking. Perhaps the conservation commission can facilitate interactions with landowners. Most of agreements are informal (just a handshake) – but to protect the system going forward, more formal agreements would be desired. In North Stonington, Groton Fish and Game closed a portion of a trail. Firefly farms also closed some trail. There is a desire to be more proactive managing the trail with the land owners. Most of the discussion centered around who were the specific landowners for specific pieces of property.

Review of May minutes

Discussion of CT Forest & Park Association – Trail development and stewardship

Ongoing Business:

- Stewart Hill Preserve Trail – Three months since application for connectivity to Narragansett Trail has been submitted. No response yet.
- Bill has not been able to arrange a photo session for opening of the trail with The Day. Nate Lynch has not responded.
- Hand delivered letter to chairman of WPCA June 6th has not had a promised response.
- Mashantuckets have still not met (3 yrs.) to consider our trail connection request.
- Still waiting for folders on parcels #8101 and 1857. An additional folder for Firefly Farm LLC needs to be developed. Bill will take care of making the folders.
- Notable Tree progress – 21 trees measured to date. See print out from Arnie. Madeline Jeffery has sent 5 notable trees and locations from her work in 1999.
 - Schedule next work day.
- Chester Maine Bridle Trail progress
 - Drakos responded with updated approved extension of his trail. All recorded in deed. Last remaining legal obstacle.

- Schedule next work day.

New Business:

Calendar pictures sparse for the large monthly pictures. Need to go to press by September.

Drone monitoring of conservation easements was discussed. The firehouse has one as does

Brent Masteano (pawn shop owner) has one as well and offered his services.

Aug 22: Bill and Arnie to work on the trail.

Sep 10, 18th – scheduled work day.

Note: Inland wetlands gave us permission to work on the trail.

Correspondence: None

No August meeting scheduled. **Next meeting: September 22.**