

Conservation Commission
Sherman, Connecticut



August 14, 2012

The **Conservation Commission Meeting** was called to order at 7:05 PM on August 14, 2012.

Present: Joanna Wozniak, vice chairman, Pat Bailey, Arthur Crane, Karen Facey, Geoff Gwyther, Colette Shulman, Linda Yannone, Chairman, Helen Bray, Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were not discussed or approved.

In the absence of Linda Yannone, Chairman, Joanna Wozniak, vice chairman, called the meeting to order.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Joanna suggested discussing the Conservation Commission to determine the goals and where the commission is going at this point.

Colette started with the CC in the past when there was the development of subdivisions and the CC had to walk these proposed subdivisions and give their recommendations to Planning & Zoning and Wetlands. There was a major achievement before Colette came on the commission and that was the publishing of the *Natural Resource Inventory Report* and now she felt the commission should find their main theme for this period in time. Colette had an article from the *New York Times* dealing with the clean water act and due to this hot summer this should be looked into. When the commission tried to encourage the people of Sherman to sign up for clean energy it did not go very far, now Colette would like to know what sort of contribution Sherman can make in renewable energy and would like to hear the commissioners thoughts.

Colette announced that a draft has been published on the *Plan of Conservation and Development* and a date will be set for a public hearing.

Colette also projected that the CC will be walking the proposed property for senior housing after the legal status of the property is worked out.

Joanna thought the CC should be more involved with P & Z and Wetlands and walking and commenting on the senior property would be a start. Colette commented that back when the *Natural Resource Inventory* was distributed the other commissions did not really appreciate it. That appears to have been an ongoing problem with the CC not being recognized by P & Z and Wetlands. Pat felt that this might be due to the fact that P & Z is elected and has power in issuing permits. Art thought the CC should recognize what is important on a piece of property and then give a recommendation.

There was lengthy discussion on the best way to work with the other commissions and what would be the best approach. One suggestion was for members of the CC to attend P & Z and Wetlands meetings, also invite a commissioner from P & Z or Wetlands to one of our meetings for their input and suggestions.

Pat had drafted a letter about invasive species being kept out of Sherman. She had planned to send this to the Board of Selectmen. However, this might be something to present to P & Z and Wetlands. Karen suggested model gardens on town property and also publish articles that could benefit the homeowner. It was suggested to try working with the school. No one knew if the letter was written to the school about returning the money to Iroquois since the garden was cancelled. At the last CC meeting Linda said that she would write to the school.

Geoff brought up Munch Meadow and he had discussed doing some work cleaning up Munch Meadow and met with Clay Cope and he agreed but the work was never done except the town crew mowed it. Geoff never thought a vegetable garden was a good idea for this location and he suggested wild flowers and distributed pictures of wild flowers. Geoff would like to have the stone wall cleaned up since you cannot even see the beautiful wall anymore. The fall was suggested as a good time for this kind of work. It was also suggested to have a burn in the fall as this would benefit the wildflowers. There is also the rear of the property that is completely different from the meadow with large rock outcroppings, and trees and water.

Colette asked what is the main goal of the commission right now. Joanna thought education, advisory and land conservation.

Joe Keneally had sent all the commissioners a copy of a letter he received from Tony Mitchell of Northwest Conservation District dated June 27, 2012. Tony is still interested in documenting the town's energy use but no one has responded to this letter.

Linda arrived at the meeting.

Linda thought the CC should write a letter of support for the senior housing development. Colette will ask Andrea, at the Land Acquisition meeting, about the status of this property so the CC can consider a walk.

Joanna thought it would be a good idea to list all the undeveloped property in Sherman. Colette said that the Land Acquisition Board is already setting up files on these undeveloped properties but where this goes and how it is preserved is something that needs to be discussed. This will be discussed at the next board meeting. Ninety acres of the Great Hollow Land, which is up for sale, is in Sherman.

The CC Mission statement is something that the commissioners should read and Linda will send everyone a copy or it could be found on the town website.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETINGS

Next month's meeting was discussed, which will be held on **Wednesday, September 12, 2012**. If Linda cannot attend she will notify vice chairman Joanna to take over. In any event the commission should be notified of a meeting or a cancellation.

Colette suggested regardless of the number of people able to attend a regular meeting, there should be a meeting, that would be considered a workshop for topics that need to be discussed and would keep the commission on course.

There is a *Handbook for Connecticut Conservation Commissions* that is published by CACIWC and it can be found on their website. There is also a town ordinance creating a Conservation Commission.

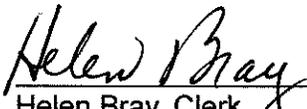
Linda will write the letter to the school about returning the money to Iroquois for the garden that was never done.

Linda requested the commissioners send her any suggestions they might have for next month's agenda.

There being no further business Pat made a motion to adjourn seconded by Colette and so moved. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

Respectfully submitted,


Helen Bray, Clerk
Conservation Commission