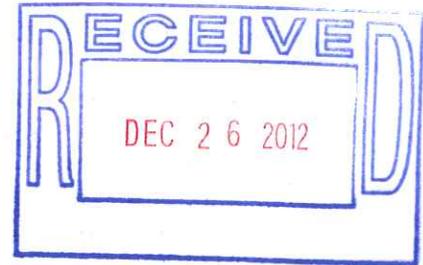


Conservation Commission
Sherman, Connecticut



December 12, 2012

In the absence of Linda Yannone, Chairman, Joanna Wozniak, Vice chairman called the meeting of the **Conservation Commission** to order at 7 PM on December 12, 2012 at 7 PM.

Present: Joanna Wozniak, Vice chairman, Pat Bailey, Geoff Gwyther, Colette Shulman, Helen Bray, Clerk

Guest: Victoria Taft

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes approved.

REPORT FROM ANNUAL CACIWC CONFERENCE

Colette and Pat attended the conference. Colette had e-mailed her notes from the workshop and the keynote talk. Copies were passed out at the meeting, all the commissioners should have this information.

Dr. Michael Klemens, a conservation biologist and land use planner was the speaker and notes on his speech are included in the notes.

Pat was there for the afternoon session dealing with conservation commissions and what they can do. Many conservation commissions feel they have no power. The panel, made up of conservation people were very positive and offered suggestions. The first panel was about the state plan of conservation and development, this information is in the notes. They are thinking of looking at areas regionally so that towns can work together. State funding is shrinking.

Joanna commented that she attended a meeting of HVCEO and there are regional planning organizations in the state. A representative from OPM was there commenting that they were considering consolidating the regions.

Open space was discussed at the CACIWC workshop, with the question *can open space be permanently protected?* Which is outlined in notes. Pat would like to have an updated map of open space. Also, it was said that the conservation commissions should be out there in the public eye and conservation commissions should be aware of what planning & zoning and wetlands commissions are doing. The conservation commission can ask to be notified of meetings and receive copies of minutes. It was suggested at the workshop that conservation commissions should have activities that would interest the public and the people would become more aware of the conservation commission. This commission had many activities in the past and they were well attended. Joanna suggested having a blogging site.

PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Geoff wrote a report on invasives that he handed out and he would like it included in the POCD. Geoff feels that development sites, where many invasives grow, stir up the soils and spread the invasives. Joanna suggested this information should be included on the website. It is felt that the public should be made aware of this problem. One of the locations to look into is the town garage since many invasives are dumped off there. Insects can also be brought in on out of state firewood. Victoria suggested making the public aware of these issues by writing letters or columns in the *Citizen News*.

MUNCH MEADOW

Clay Cope has not yet taken the walk with Geoff at Munch Meadow. Geoff was asked to contact Clay to schedule a walk. It was also suggested to get a group of people together in the spring to walk the property and have invasives pointed out. Joanna will e-mail Naromi and let them know what the CC is doing about invasives.

GOALS FOR 2013

People seem to have lost interest in global warming and it was thought that now would be a good time to renew interest in global warming even at a local level.

Solar power is something to be considered and Colette handed out an article about solar and how to get people together to educate them.

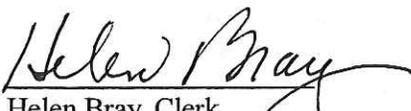
Forest management is another area of concern. People are now worried about dangerous trees on their property so they are cutting them down.

TERMS OF COMMISSIONERS

Linda sent an e-mail stating Geoff, Art and Joanna are up for reappointment. Geoff and Joanna accepted reappointment. It is uncertain with Art and he should be contacted. The commission in general was discussed and the fact that some commissioners never attend meetings but do not write a letter of resignation. Victoria Taft attended this meeting to consider an appointment to the commission.

There being no further business Joanna made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pat and so moved. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Helen Bray, Clerk
Conservation Commission

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS ON JANUARY 9, 2013