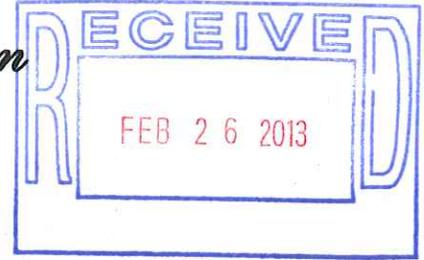


Conservation Commission
Sherman, Connecticut



February 13, 2013

The **Conservation Commission Meeting** was called to order at 7 PM on February 13, 2013.

Present: Joanna Wozniak, Chairman, Pat Bailey, Karen Facey, Geoff Gwyther, Colette Shulman,
Helen Bray, Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joanna made a motion to approve the following minutes dated August 14, 2012, September 12, 2012, October 10, 2012, November 14, 2012, December 12, 2012, January 9, 2013. Seconded by Colette and so moved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Connecticut Land Conservation Conference on Saturday, March 23, 2013

Letter of resignation from Ashleigh Blake dated January 5, 2013.

Letter from Barbara Ackerman, Chairman, P & Z, answering Joanna's letter concerning the POCD. The final revision is at the printers.

Letter from P & Z with notification of a public hearing concerning Proposed Amendments to the Zoning Regulations on Thursday, February 21, 2013.

Connecticut Bar Association meeting on March 16, 2013 about land use laws.

BUDGET 2013 – 2014

Budget requests are due February 15, 2013. The commission agreed to submit a budget the same as previous years in the amount of \$1750.

Joanna made a motion to approve the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014. Seconded by Pat and so moved. Joanna will submit budget with a letter.

NEW BUSINESS

Naromi Land Trust -Joanna met with Hunter Brawley and Chris Jellen of Naromi. She had mentioned to them that the CC is interested in partnering with them. Hunter Brawley, Land Manager for Naromi has several GIS layers he offered to show and they were both interested in working together. They would like to have guided hikes with a speaker.

Northwest Conservation District – The CC will ask the other chairs of town commissions to sign a letter in support of NCD to resume Sherman's budgetary contribution.

Happy Acres – It was suggested to put on the CC agenda the future of Happy Acres. It would also be a good idea to try to get together with Tony Hapanowich and ask him what he would like to see happen with the farm. There is a foundation that would probably be used to maintain the buildings. Geoff had heard that Tony has everything set up for Happy Acres, how it will be run and how it will be funded.

Senior Housing – The Board of Selectmen had a meeting to discuss the location of the recreational easement that had been required by Iroquois in exchange for funds to be granted to the town. Iroquois will select the location from options offered and get back to the BOS in about two weeks from the date of the meeting which was on February 7, 2013.

OLD BUSINESS

According to the January 9, 2013 minutes each of the commissioners were assigned selected topics to work on.

Joanna chose the topic Natural Resources and had written up her thoughts mentioning partnerships with Naromi Land Trust, Candlewood Lake Authority, Park & Rec, Wetlands Commission and Northeast Utilities.

Also, education, advice, liaison and outreach. For education Joanna suggested getting involved with the library book discussion group and recommended some environmental books for discussion. Geoff had a book he recommended about native plants titled *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas W. Tallamy.

It was suggested to schedule a meeting with the CLA in the spring.

There should be a vernal pool inventory and update the towns natural resource inventory.

A quarterly newsletter should be sent out. This would require people signing up then sending it out by e-mail.

Pat pointed out that one of the duties of a conservation commission is to keep an inventory of open space. There is a map of open space in the conference room. It will be worked on.

Munch Meadow – Geoff reported some work had started with the town crew but ground to a halt with the weather. The front of the wall cannot be cleaned up since the state has a 15 ft. easement off the road. The work should resume when the snow is finished.

Home Energy – Colette had been talking with Victoria Taft about home energy. They thought it would be a good idea to have the small businesses in town become more energy efficient, if necessary. There is someone that will come and survey the business and make suggestions to become more energy efficient.

They spoke to Kate McConaghy about her house that has solar panels and she is very pleased with the solar energy and saving money. Kate would be glad to come and talk to the commission and Solar City should be invited to attend a meeting.

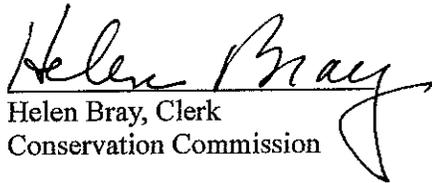
Conservation Commission – Colette pointed out that two more commissioners are needed to fill vacancies. Geoff has been in contact with a potential commissioner, Steven Socher, who has experience with web sites.

Education – Pat feels that education is very important for people and suggested a monthly column in the paper.

There being no further business Colette made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Karen and so moved.
Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS ON MARCH 13, 2013

Respectfully submitted,


Helen Bray, Clerk
Conservation Commission