

Conservation Commission
Sherman, Connecticut



April 4, 2013

The **Conservation Commission Meeting** was called to order at 8:04 PM on April 4, 2013.

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

Guest: Andrea O'Connor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were approved.

HAPPY ACRES

Andrea attended this meeting to report on Happy Acres and the meeting she had with Tony H. First was Tony's helper had died. Tony does have some people helping out.

Andrea had spoken to the architect, Charlie Hitchcock, that had done the renovations on Old Town Hall and wanted to nominate Happy Acres for the register of farms and barns. At a selectmen's meeting Gary Alberts had suggested the towns people could volunteer to do the mowing and clean up on the farm.

Tony wants to continue farming for as long as he is physically able. Tony feels the town owns the farm and should have the freedom to do what it wants and he would not dictate what happens to the property. The town wants to keep Happy Acres as an active farm. At the present time it is a beef cattle farm, high quality Angus.

Tony had said at an earlier time that he would set up a foundation to manage the farm after he was gone. Andrea is not certain if this ever emerged.

Tony was interested in whether the town is setting aside the money from the cell tower revenues for the future maintenance of the farm. The town is setting this aside and at present has \$45,000. The equipment has been upgraded so there was an increase in rental.

Tony took Andrea on a tour of the entire house and it is an old house that is in impeccable condition. Every room has been painted and has hardwood floors. There is space that was made for a living area with another kitchen and bathroom and this could be occupied by a tenant farmer. Tony was open to having a tenant farmer living there while he was still occupying the house.

Andrea in talking around feels there are farmers that are interested in land to run cattle and horses. There is also prime agricultural soils on the property.

There are many sources of information and help outside of the government and there are potential farmers living in town. There are many possibilities with the house such as dormitories.

Joanna suggested getting a meeting together with farmers and knowledgeable people. The farm tour was suggested. There are several farms in the area that most people are not aware of. It was suggested to take an inventory of the farms in Sherman.

As Andrea was leaving she commented that she had put a lot of time into the farm negotiations and would like to continue to be involved.

Articles should be written in the *CN* on farming.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

According to Andrea, the POCD, Planning & Zoning Commission, will request at the Board of Selectmen meeting to go on the town meeting agenda for a vote. The Northwest Conservation District has been put back in the budget for \$1200. Andrea feels if the budget must be cut it will be the big ticket items, and she handed out copies of the budget.

MUNCH MEADOW

Geoff reported that things are at a standstill right now. Ron Cooper stopped the work and wants a wetlands permit for work on this property. Heavy equipment cannot be used in the wetland area without a permit. The application is in and the Wetlands meeting is on April 16th. There is a 100 ft. regulated area around the wetland. Some of the growth that Geoff would like to see removed will have to be done with equipment.

There is not much the Wetlands Commission can do without the wetlands shown on a map and flagged at the site. A soil scientist will be needed for this. Northwest Conservation can be asked.

Pat suggested having before and after pictures.

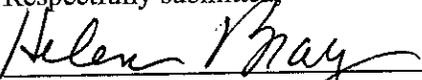
FARM TOUR

Colette would like to have the farm tour this year and would like to contact Naromi and ask them to take part in putting this together. It would also include the pot luck dinner at the end of the tour. All agreed.

There being no further business Joanna made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Pat and so moved. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS ON MAY 8, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,


Helen Bray, Clerk
Conservation Commission