

Conservation Commission Minutes
special meeting: Wednesday, August 7, 2013
(usually second Wednesday of every month)
Mallory Town Hall

Commissioners in attendance: Joanna Wozniak, Colette Shulman, Geoff Gwyther

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joanna Wozniak at 7:10 PM.

Correspondence discussions included a letter from CAICW that requested the annual membership. Chairman Wozniak unfamiliar with membership practice and will look into the cost-saving combination membership with Inland Wetlands. Otherwise, other present commissioners agreed to \$60 annual fee. Other correspondence included a letter from the First Selectmen stating that Commission's budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year was set at \$1,250.

Commissioner Gwyther reported on the Munch Meadow. Commissioners Gwyther, Bailey, and Wozniak accompanied Northwest Conservation District director Sean Hayden for a walkabout the property to flag the wetlands. Sean provided Commissioner Gwyther with a map for use in the application to Inland Wetlands for removal of invasives. Director Hayden was extremely helpful in discussion regarding issues of wetlands, invasives, biodiversity, and water quality at Munch Meadow. Commissioner Gwyther to re-submit application to Inland Wetlands for their August 20th meeting. In terms of an event, Commissioner Gwyther feels that fall remains the best time for a workday and invasive removal education event. Commissioner Shulman suggested that we look at the town calendar to possibly piggy-back on another event to maximize the day. Further decisions pending based on the August 20th meeting.

Chairman Wozniak reported on Happy Acres that there has been no further discussion regarding the 'future of Happy Acres' from LAFAB as Andrea has been on vacation. Commissioner Shulman mentioned that she has been researching the issues as discussed at the prior LAFAB meeting and suggested Chairman Wozniak attend the next LAFAB meeting. The commission discussed the tour of Happy Acres event to take place on August 24th. Commissioner Gwyther reported that Mr. Hapanowich agreed to an 11-1 time frame, a raindate of the 25th, and will arrange the animals and equipment for a tour. Chairman Wozniak to contact Citizen News, Resident Trooper, and town hall about the event. Commissioner Shulman may bring one or two cases of water to the event.

Commissioner Shulman reported on the public information meeting regarding the proposed cell tower on Coote Hill. Neighbors were upset that they were not properly notified of the possible cell tower. Identified environmental issues include: wetlands destruction, erosion, noise, and bridge integrity. The Commission discussed alternatives. Commissioner McCann submitted suggestions via email as he could not attend the meeting. He suggested the Commission review

concerns over wetlands authority as the Siting Council may overrule the local board. David Hopkins, a guest, stated that the First Selectman requested that Planning & Zoning compile the town's response and submit by September 9th. Chairman Wozniak to contact Planning & Zoning for deadline for submission to them and contact Inland Wetlands regarding wetlands regulations.

Commissioner Shulman made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Gwyther seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Wozniak