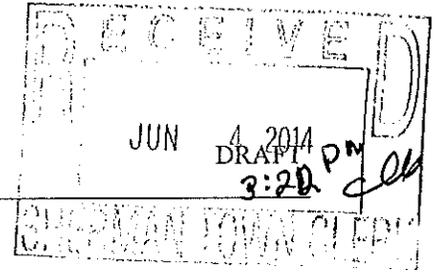


Sherman Conservation Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 14, 2014
Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.



Members Present: Chair, Bill McCann, Colette Shulman, and Patricia Bailey

Absent: Geoff Gwyther, Joanna Wozniak, and John Foley

Public & Invited: None

Also Present: Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

This meeting was audio recorded.

Call to Order:

B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:25 p.m.

Correspondence:

Planning & Zoning Commission, in reference to a Public Hearing on June 19th, 2014 to propose amendments to the current regulations.

Planning & Zoning Commission, in reference to a Public Hearing on May 1st, 2014 to propose a one year moratorium on applications concerning medical marijuana and dispensary facilities.

Aquarion Water Co. requesting a nomination of an environmentally conscious business in the Sherman area for consideration of a grant award in the amount of \$2,500.00

The Habitat, Spring 2014 edition of a newsletter of the CT. Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commission.

Business

Invasive Walk and Talk program recap-

B. McCann reported the attendance of the event was approximately 30 people. Representatives of Naromi, JCC, and other organizations were present as well. A speaker gave a comprehensive presentation regarding invasives. Marge Josephson provided samples of invasives. Printed materials were provided by the Conservation Commission. The Commission felt the event was well received and believes there will be the need for more events following this theme. It was suggested, now that the foliage is more prevalent, an additional walk may be in order. One aspect which should be brought to the public is, "How do we properly dispose of an invasive species once it is identified?" Marge Josephson has offered her property for a follow up walk to help identify invasives in the near future. B. McCann will reach out to Marge and try to work out a date for this event. Discussion followed regarding promotional materials for future events.

Identifying Invasives Service

A result of the invasive walk, the Commission is seeing the need to offer services to the public at large, (free of charge) conducted by a member of the Commission. The idea is to provide educational services to property owners to identify and control invasives on their property. The services would not provide labor, simply a consultation. This might be an opportunity to offer a community outreach program to the Scouts or other local youth organization and train the younger generation on the proper removal of these invasives.

Happy Acres Farm RFP Update

B. McCann spoke in reference to a workshop meeting that the Happy Acres Farm Ad Hoc Advisory Committee (HAFC) held a week ago. Several Conservation Commission members as well as those from other organizations were in attendance. The purpose of the workshop was to respond to the request of the BoS to review and give feedback concerning a draft version of an RFP recently drawn up by the Town Attorney. The workshop was quite productive and resulted in a collaborative effort to convey a clear vision to the BoS as to what the hopes, responsibilities and focus of the Town should be moving forward with the future of the farm. A letter was submitted to the BoS on behalf of the Conservation Commission composed by J. Wozniak with detailed points highlighting the wishes of this Commission. Other letters were also submitted by J. Molito and N. Volkmar of the HAFC, as well as an independent letter from C. Shulman.

Kestrel Box Update

P. Bailey reported Art Gingert has placed a stake in the ground, showing ideal placement for the kestrel box in the Northeastern pasture. Ms. Bailey stated this is probably too late to put the box this season and attract a resident, but is hopeful to have the approval of the BoS to begin early next Spring. B. McCann suggested approaching the Farm Manager directly once the BoS gives approval and work out placement to best serve the cattle as well as the nesting kestrels.

Natural Resources Inventory Report Update

The Commission wishes to begin updating the Natural Resources Inventory Report (NRIR) this year in hopes to have a complete version available to the public by FY 2015. The Commission will have to submit a request to the BoS for funding by next January. A copy of the latest edition was dispersed to members of this Committee for review and feedback over the next several meetings. It is still unknown if there is an editable version available. P. Bailey will reach out to Sam Lamhut, as suggested by J. Kenealy. Points of interest to add or update were: Happy Acres Farm, input from NAROMI, and updated DEEP reports of reptiles and amphibians as well as other species. Thoughts were to reach out to other Commissions and Boards for input, there are several copies in inventory that can be distributed.

Adjourn

B. McCann Adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Christine Branson, Commission Clerk
May 21, 2014