

Sherman Conservation Commission

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 14, 2014

Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

DRAFT

Members Present: Acting Chair, Patricia Bailey, Bill McCann, Lucille Hinkley, Colette Shulman, Joanna Wozniak and John Foley

Absent: Geoff Gwyther

Also Present: Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

Call to Order:

Acting Chair, P. Bailey Called the Meeting to Order at 7:05 p.m.

B. McCann Moved to Amend the Agenda to include Approval of Minutes.

Seconded by: C. Shulman

Vote: For: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes

B. McCann Moved to Approve the Minutes of July 9th, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting, as written.

Seconded by: J. Foley

Vote: For: 5 Abstain: 1 (J. Wozniak)

Correspondence:

Connecticut Audobon Society -2014 Annual newsletter

J. Wozniak, Conservation Commissioner, reported email correspondence with Business Administrator, Liz Lavia in reference to FY 2014-15 Budget. When the new Clerk began in January, the Commission was never informed there would be a change in the rate of pay, therefore the Budget was never adjusted accordingly. J. Wozniak plans on discussing this matter further with the BoS, to request a separate line in the Conservation Commission's Budget specifically for the Clerk, and an adjustment made to compensate for the rate of pay change to allow sufficient coverage for 12 meetings during FY 2014-15.

L. LaVia, Sherman Business Administrator, requesting 2013-14 Annual Report, due by September 19, 2014. (J. Wozniak stated she will work on a report for the next meeting).

C. Cope, First Selectman, requesting a short bio from new members of the Conservation Commission, Lucille Hinkley and John Foley.

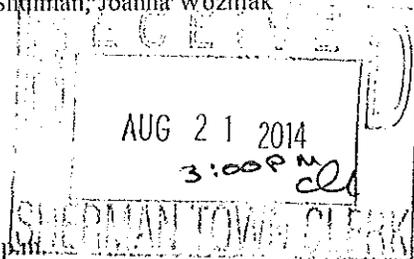
New Business

Member Communication to ensure a quorum at meetings

Acting Chair, P. Bailey requested email communication with the Clerk and/ or Chair, in a timely manner, if a Commissioner will not be attending the meetings.

Munch Meadows

The Commission noted the meadow has been nicely mowed, and it seems many of the overgrown areas along the stone walls have been cleared. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of placing bird boxes on this parcel. The Commission discussed a previous discussion with the Inlands/ Wetlands Commission, where they were denied the ability to clear the area of known invasive plants, due to the regulations not allowing large machinery within wetlands. The Commission discussed re-approaching the Wetlands Commission to see if there would be any possibility to create minimal alterations to maintain and remove invasive plants. The Conservation Commission will reach out to Park & Recs. to open communications as to the best approach for maintaining the invasive plants for the future.



Old Business

Invasives Removal Program

Schedule identification walk

The Commission continued discussion regarding planning an event in collaboration with other Boards and Commissions in Sherman. The ideal dates would be one of these weekends, Saturday, October 4th with a rain date of October 5th or the following weekend October 11 or 12th. J. Foley will reach out to resources of possible speakers. L. Hinkley will look into contacting local merchants for food and refreshment donations. B. McCann will contact members from other Boards to firm up a date and location. J. Wozniak will contact the Inland Wetlands Commission. Colette will reach out to Ashleigh to see if the school can become involved.

Goals to work on between now and the next meeting include:

- * Location of event
- * Obtain Burn and any additional permits for disposal of the invasives
- * Advertizing
- * Collaboration with other Boards
- * Book a speaker to address proper disposal practices and the importance of removing invasives
- * Organize a reception, with refreshments and snacks

Weed wrench purchase

The Commission briefly discussed developing ideas for the storage and public access to the weed wrench. Further discussion will follow at the next meeting.

Natural Resources Inventory Report Update

J. Wozniak was able to import a scanned copy of the 2005 edition of the Natural Resources Inventory into an editable format. This was a huge hurdle, and will make editing updates to the body of the work easier. Commissioners are seeking the input from Angela Dimmett and Amanda Branson. J. Wozniak copied and handed out a 2012 Habitat newsletter which specifically addresses the importance of keeping an updated Natural Resources Inventory. J. Foley will work on obtaining a vernal pool inventory which was recently worked on. Clerk, C. Branson will follow up regarding the ability to post the current inventory on the Town website.

Kestrel Box Update

P. Bailey will start up the conversation again with Mr. Gingert to see if he is still interested in the Happy Acres location. Also she will need to follow up with the BoS to see if they are willing to allow placement of the box on Town property. The Commission discussed the RFP that is happening at the Farm and wondered if it would be best to wait and see what results come in. Additional sites will be explored as well as other types of bird accommodations, such as blue birds or owls.

Happy Acres Update

B. McCann and J. Wozniak reported on the open house for prospective applicants to the RFP. Approximately eight people were at the site. There will be additional dates and times will be added if needed to view the property and facilities. Discussion followed in reference to input and participation of the citizens during the selection process. C. Shulman will contact the First Selectman to see if there will be opportunities for input.

Adjourn

B. McCann Adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Christine Branson, Commission Clerk
August 21, 2014