

SHERMAN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2014

Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

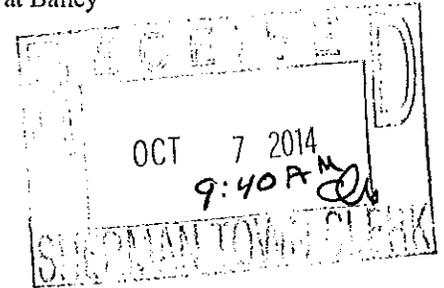
DRAFT

Members Present: Bill McCann, Joanna Wozniak, C. Shulman, Geoff Gwyther, and Pat Bailey

Absent: John Foley and Lucille Hinkley

Also Present: Susan Williams and Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

Call to Order: P. Bailey Called the Meeting to Order at 7:05 p.m.



Election of Officers:

J. Wozniak shared with the Commission her intention on stepping down from Chair and requested nomination of a new Chair. A brief discussion took place regarding the possibility of rotating the responsibility between members. There was concern regarding keeping up with responsibilities and consistency, should the position be passed around.

P. Bailey Moved to nominate Bill McCann as Chairman of the Conservation Commission for the appointed term.

Seconded by: C Shulman Vote: For: (5) Unanimous

B. McCann Moved to nominate P. Bailey as Vice- Chair to the Conservation Commission for the appointed term.

Seconded by: C Shulman Vote: For: (5) Unanimous

Budget Discussion:

J. Wozniak reported a meeting with the First Selectman in regard to a budget concern. The Fiscal Year began July 1st, 2014 and based on the current rate of expenditure, the Commission will run considerably over the approved amount. Ms. Wozniak also contacted the Commission Clerk to discuss the budget. Since the staff turnover in January, the rate of pay the previous Clerk differs from the new. It is unclear why the rate of pay is any different than the other clerks of Boards within the Town, such as the Inland Wetlands, Park and Rec. or Historic District Clerks. It has now come to light, when the First Selectman negotiated the new Clerk's employment terms, the budget was not adjusted to support the rate of pay. A letter to the Commission was read into record from the Clerk regarding the matter. Discussion took place regarding a Budget increase request next Fiscal Year to reflect the update of the Clerk's pay. The Commission agreed would be responsible to bring this matter to the attention of the Board of Selectman. Further Budget discussion took place regarding financial preparation for updating the Sherman Natural Resources Inventory, which is required to be updated every ten years. The last update took place in 2005, and was funded through a Grant from the Iroquois Pipeline Foundation. It is not clear if the same grant funding is available. The Commission agreed to make an official request of the BoS to increase the Commission's Budget during the workshops in January to reflect the pay difference moving forward as well as funding for printing of the updated Resource Inventory. The Commission discussed the need for Educational Fees so members may attend educational workshops.

Approval of Minutes: August 14, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting

J. Wozniak Moved to approve the Minutes of August 14, 2014 as amended. Remove the term " acting as chair".

Seconded by B. McCann Vote: For: 4 Abstain: 1 (J. Wozniak)

FY 2013-14 Annual Report

J. Wozniak submitted a draft of the FY 2013-14 Annual Report of the Conservation Commission. B. McCann will review the draft and submit to the office of the First Selectman by the due date. September 18th, 2014.

Invasive Day

B. McCann has contacted G. Linkletter and set the date for the Invasive Species Event for Saturday , October 18, 2014, the rain date is Sunday October 19, 2014. Naromi Landtrust has agreed to include notification in their newsletter. L. Hickey agreed at the last Meeting she would contact local business for snack and beverage donations. B. McCann agreed to take care of the signage. B. McCann has also been in contact with M. Crawford, the Fire Marshal to figure the best way to dispose of the plant material. The main focus will be the area beyond the elementary school. If more than anticipated show up to volunteer for the day, a second group will work on the area to the right of Mallory Town Hall. The Commission agreed it would be a great learning experience if the school would get involved. Volunteers will be encouraged to bring, gloves, clippers, and protective clothing. The Commission will also promote the event on their Facebook page and the Citizen News. This is also a good opportunity to teach Citizens about identifying, and removal of invasive species.

UCONN Invasive Workshop

The Commission briefly discussed a workshop coming November 15th, encouraging the new Members to attend. Approximately 4 members would like to attend costing approximately \$220.00 plus mileage. This cost is reimbursable if forms are filled out and submitted to the First Selectman.

Old Business

New Commissioners' Appointment request to the BoS

P. Bailey will write a letter to the BoS requesting appointment of nominees Members John Foley and Lucille Hinkley to the Commission. Discussion followed pointing out the Town website information will need to reflect the new changes within the Commission. New Chair: Bill McCann, Vice-Chair Patricia Bailey, and the abovementioned new Commissioners. Joanna Wozinak will continue as a Commissioner, she will be getting married on September 20, 2014 and her last name will need to be updated to Wozniak-Brown on the website.

Correspondence-

Connecticut Wildlife Magazine, August issue.

Natural Resource Inventory Report

B. McCann has provided hard copies of the 2005 Inventory to the following people for review: Gloria Thompson, Historical District, Naromi Land Trust, and Angela Dimmett. The Commission is waiting for feedback.

Happy Acres

B. McCann reported the BoS's latest progress for seeking a tenant farmer for Happy Acres. The BoS received a total of six applications, they have narrowed the applicants down to three. The BoS will continue to hold workshop style meetings, and the Commissioners are encouraged to attend. The three remaining applicants are: Full Circle Farms, LLC which is proposing full use of the farm and residence. They will be a grass fed beef operation as well as several innovative agricultural ideas. The second is : Lescynski Farming, LLC. Jeff is currently managing the farm and proposes to continue operations status quo, increasing the heard and migrating away from corn to grass. He is not interested in occupying the residence and is requesting funding from the Town to cover the cost of an employee. The third applicant is Rosie's Dairy, LLC proposing a full dairy farm of Gurnsey cows. B. McCann shared his personal opinion, that Rosie's Dairy seemed the most viable option. Discussion followed with respect to the land and the requirements to be deemed certified organic.

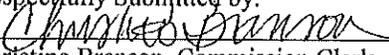
Weed Wrench

B. McCann submitted the receipt and reimbursement form to Business Administrator, L. LaVia on on behalf of G. Gwyther. G. Gwyther confirmed he has received reimbursement for the weed wrench. The Commission is anticipating use of the wrench at the Invasive Species Day, October 18th.

Adjourn

J. Wozniak Adjourned the Meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

September 16, 2014