

Sherman Conservation Commission

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 8, 2014

Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

DRAFT

Members Present: Bill McCann, Patricia Bailey, Geoff Gwyther, Joanna Wozniak, Lucille Hinkley, and John Foley

Absent: Colette Shulman

Also Present: Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

Call to Order:

B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

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

Seconded by: J. Wozniak

Vote: For: Unanimous

Correspondence:

CT Land Conservation Counsel- Membership Application

CACIWC- Membership Application

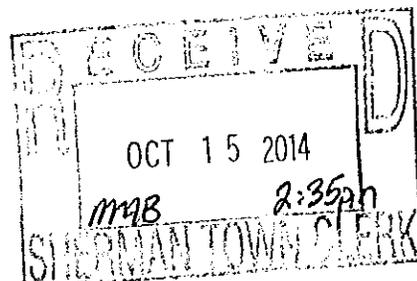
New Business:

Invasive Species Day, October 18th, 2014

The Commission agreed to call the event an "Invasive Plant Removal Program". They plan on meeting October 18th, 2014, at 9:00 am to 12:00 pm behind the elementary school at Veteran's Field. Volunteers are to bring their own clippers, trimmers, gloves and protective clothing is recommended. There will be a table where plant examples will be displayed. The featured invasive plants will be: bittersweet, multi-flora rose, barberry, and knotweed. L. Hinkley reported she has secured donations from American Pie (cookies) as well as the IGA will supply drinks (juice and waters). The Commission plans to have the weed wrench available for use as well as educational purposes. B. McCann will provide counter cards, posters and sandwich boards. G. Linkletter met with ZEO, R. Cooper, and Fire Marshal M. Crawford to discuss the best plan to remove the plant material once they have been cut down. Discussion followed regarding State requirements for proper disposal of invasive plants. The event will be posted on the Town website, Facebook, the Naromi Land Trust website, newspapers: the Citizen News and the New Milford Spectrum and paper flyers will be shared with other Town organizations and the school. If more volunteers than anticipated show up, a second group will be sent to the Mallory Town Hall area to the right of the building.

CACIWC Environmental Conference, November 15th, 2014

The Conference this year is scheduled to be at the Villa Capri on Saturday November 15th in Wallingford CT. The tickets are \$ 50.00 each and four Commission Members have expressed interest in attending. This will be at a cost of the Commission's reimbursable educational fees at a total of \$ 200.00, plus mileage. The Members have agreed to carpool to reduce the mileage cost.



Old Business

Commission Budget update

B. McCann reported an update regarding ongoing Budgetary concerns. It was brought to the attention of the BoS last month at their regular meeting. Upon further discussion the BoS determined the formula the Clerks were being paid was incorrect and moving forward, would use the correct formula. The Commission shared concerns they would still run over the Budget has been reduced over the years. The Commission agreed they will need to request an increase at the BoS FY 2014-15 workshops in January to reflect realistic funding for the Clerk as well as educational programs, newspaper ads and printing.

Weed Wrench

G. Gwyther and B. McCann spoke of a misunderstanding between the Business Manager, L. LaVia and the process of reimbursement for the weed wrench. The Commission agreed to the purchase because the funding was available at the end of the FY 2013-14 Budget. However the reimbursement did not take place until FY 2014-15 had kicked in. G. Gwyther was told if he submitted the billing by mid July the funds would come from FY 2013-14, he felt he had done as was required within the time limitations. B. McCann intends to bring the post marked envelope, request form and copy of the refund check to the attention of the Business Manager to hopefully reconcile the miscommunication.

Natural Resources Inventory Report Update

The 2005 Natural Resources Inventory is up on the Town website. Several people have been contacted regarding feedback or interest in input during the revision coming up. J. Foley will contact Hunter Brawley to inquire about updated maps. P. Bailey will reach out to J. Kenealley for updates and corrections. B. McCann is looking into the costs related to printing.

New Members recognized and approved

At the last BoS meeting of September 25, 2014 John Foley and Lucille Hinkley were appointed new Members of the Commission.

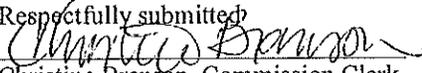
Happy Acres Update

J. Wozniak updated the Commission of the latest news from the search for a Farm tenant. The BoS is in the process of negotiating a lease with Full Circle Farming, LLC. At the last Special Meeting of the BoS, Full Circle provided a report with clarification on specific financial topics requested by the Selectmen. Also presented was a map of the property and specific details about fields and how many animals on the fields. The Commission discussed the practice of "rotational grazing". The BoS will hold an informational meeting previous to the Town Meeting to clarify any concerns or questions citizens may have.

Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted


Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

October 15, 2014