

# Sherman Conservation Commission

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

FINAL

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**Members Present:** Bill McCann, Patricia Bailey, Geoff Gwyther, Lucille Hinkley, John Foley and Colette Shulman

**Absent:** Joanna Wozniak- Brown

**Also Present:** Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

**Call to Order:**

Chairman B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:03 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Tabled to the next meeting.

**Correspondence:**

Chad Seewagen- potential new member

Habitat- Fall schedule of seminars

CT Wildlife Magazine- Fall issue

**New Business:**

## **Invasive Day follow-up and future schedule**

Chairman W. McCann reported the event was very well attended, the area that was focused on should be cut back three times in the summer to be effective. The Commission discussed obtaining proper training from the State DEEP. W. McCann will reach out to the Fire Marshal for guidance. Future dates to hold an additional event are June, July and again late August. Adhering to this schedule will exhaust the invasive plants and reduce their seed/ root production during the next growing season. Another area of concern is adjacent to Mallory Town Hall at the trail, several invasives have been observed at this location.

## **CACIWC Environmental Conference, November 15th, 2014**

The Conference is Saturday November 15th in Wallingford CT. The Commission discussed the schedule of events. Some of the topics include identifying invasives, bamboo and climate changes, open space and trail management practices, and co-existing with black bears. Several members had expressed interest in attending this conference.

## **Rock Wall Program**

Commissioner G. Gwyther proposed a new program concept to the Commission focusing on repairing stone walls through-out the Town. Several other Boards and Commissions would likely need to be consulted regarding the program details. Also it would be helpful to have a consultant speak. The intent is to return deteriorating walls to the original state of construction, not manicured or cemented together. One area of focus is directly in front of Mallory Town Hall on the trail side of the building. Discussion followed regarding a suitable time of the year for this event.

### **Bee Presentation**

First Selectman C. Cope sent an email to B. McCann and J. Wozniak-Brown concerning a PBS documentary he had recently seen regarding Honeybee Colony Collapse Disorder. The Commission discussed holding a local forum to show this film and heighten awareness of the health of honey bees on a local level and discussed bringing in a speaker. There are several home and children's projects that could be coordinated in conjunction with this forum. This will be added to the Agenda for the following months for planning purposes.

### **Approval of 2015 Schedule of Meeting**

The Commission received the schedule of Meetings as submitted.

### **Old Business**

#### **Commission Budget update**

The Commission discussed the balance of the FY 2014-15 Budget, there is \$ 269.46 left. The Budget was reduced a few years ago it. The Commission agreed 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, mailing and promotional printing.

#### **Natural Resources Inventory Report Update**

The 2005 Natural Resources Inventory has been sent to several individuals for input and is available on the Town website. J. Foley has attempted to contact Hunter Brawley to inquire about updated maps. The Commission will reach out to the Historic District, Inland/ Wetlands, Planning & Zoning, and Parks & Recreations for additional input. An update of native animals is needed and the photo wall at the Sherman Post Office was discussed. J. Wozniak- Brown has created an email address for receipt of input. A rough schedule has been implemented for deadlines.

Internal Input:	January 1, 2015
External Input:	January 15, 2015
Identify / Research Mapping:	February 15, 2015
Complete grant applications:	March 1, 2015
Department Reports:	June 15, 2015
Research Reports:	August 15, 2015
Final Approval:	December 15, 2015

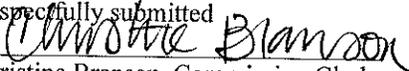
#### **Happy Acres Update**

The BoS will hold an informational meeting on November 15th and a Town Meeting November 22nd to move the question to a Town Referendum on Saturday December 6th, 2014.

### **Adjourn**

**L. Hinkley Adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted



Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

November 19, 2014