

Sherman Conservation Commission

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

FINAL

Members Present: Bill McCann, Patricia Bailey, Joanna Wozniak- Brown, John Foley and Colette Shulman

Absent: Geoff Gwyther and Lucille Hinkley

Also Present: Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

Call to Order:

Chairman B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:08 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

P. Bailey Moved to Approve the Minutes of October 8, 2014 as written.

Seconded by: J. Foley **Vote: Yes: 4, Abstain: 1 (C. Shulman)**

C. Shulman Moved to Approve the Minutes of November 12, 2014 as written.

Seconded by: P. Bailey **Vote: Yes: 4, Abstain: 1 (J. Wozniak- Brown)**

Correspondence

BoS FY 2015-16 Annual Budget request. The proposed 2015-16 Budget will need to be voted on at the next Conservation Commission meeting is February 11th, 2015.

New Business

2015-16 FY Budget Discussion

J. Wozniak-Brown submitted a draft template of the Budget and the Commission worked on the new proposed numbers, taking into consideration the need for additional funding to cover costs relating to the update and printing of the Natural Resource Inventory , community outreach projects, professional development fees, newspaper ads , postage, and Clerk compensation. The Commission agreed an increase would be appropriate due to the Resource Inventory update and related costs , bringing the proposed 2015-16 FY Budget request amount to \$ 1,900.00. The Commission discussed the timeline involved with the Budget submittal. The proposed 2015-16 Budget will need to be voted on at the next Conservation Commission meeting is February 11th, 2015. The approved proposed budget will be submitted to the BoS by February 17th, 2015. BoS Budget Workshops will be held the following dates: 2/28/15, 3/4/15, 3/12/15 a hearing on 3/31/15 and Town Meeting 4/23/15.

CACIWC Environmental Conference update

P. Bailey reported her attendance at the November 15th convention. She said it is a wonderful event and encourages all members to try to attend. She shared a variety of information including, safety regarding and Black Bears; an Environmental scorecard which shows how politicians support the environment; a report of the CT Woodlands; and information regarding the negative and aggressive affects particular kinds of bamboo. Ms. Bailey will inform the Inland/ Wetlands Officer of an area where she believes this type of bamboo exists here in Sherman.

Bee Colony Collapse Disorder Presentation

The Commission discussed the PBS video link B. McCann had shared via email. The Commission agreed to present the PBS movie along with a discussion by Apiculturist, Ray Clark. The ESF or the Library both have sound and video systems. April 18th, 2015 was discussed as the preliminary date for the event. More to follow at the next meeting.

Rock wall Program

With the absence of G. Gwyther, this discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

Old Business

Happy Acres update

J. Wozniak- Brown shared details; the two families have officially moved into the farmhouse, and are in the beginning stages of settling in. The Commission suggested contacting the new tenants to see if they would be in favor of placing the Kestrel boxes on the property as was presented to the BoS last year.

Natural Resource Inventory Report up-date discussion

The Commission is actively seeking input from partners who contributed information in the past. A letter was read into record that Commissioner Wozniak- Brown composed in November of 2014 requesting information Town Boards and Commissions. The original calendar of deadlines was discussed and adjusted.

Adjournment

P. Bailey Adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:


Christine Branson, Commission Clerk
January 21, 2015

Approved as FINAL at the March 11, 2015 Regular Meeting