

Conservation Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 11, 2015
Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 PM

FINAL

Members Present: Bill McCann, Patricia Bailey, Lucille Hinkley

Absent: Joanna Wozniak- Brown, Geoff Gwyther, John Foley, and Colette Shulman

Also Present: Christine Branson, Commission Clerk and Chad Seewagen (potential new Commissioner)

There was not a quorum present, so this meeting was for informational purposes.

Call to Order:

Chairman B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Tabled to the next meeting.

Correspondence:

Habitat News Letter, Winter Edition

Planning & Zoning Legal Warning of Regulations Change Public Hearing on March 5th, 2015.

New Business

FY 2015-16 Budget Discussion

Chair, Wm. McCann discussed the proposed 2015-16 Budget. It was approved at the January 2015 Meeting by the Committee and is ready to be submitted to the Board of Selectman. The proposed Budget is higher than last year. The increase is due to an adjustment to the clerk's line at a higher rate of pay than the previous clerk, as well as an addition of a Professional Development line and Public Outreach/ Program line. The proposed bottom line is \$ 1,900.00. In addition to the operating Budget, the Commission has requested funding for the update of the Sherman Natural Resources Inventory, which is anticipated to be complete by January 2016. Funding for the printing could be as much as \$ 1,173.00 however alternative options are being explored.

Potential New Member, Chad Seewagen

Mr. Seewagen introduced himself to the attending Commissioners. He moved to Sherman this past June and is interested in contributing to the Commission. He has a Masters Degree and a PhD in Ornithology. His background is in wildlife biology, environmental impact assessment, and is an adjunct Professor at PACE University. His Graduate research was conducted at the Bronx Zoo where he studied migratory birds. He is employed by a planning company in New York State

Bee Colony Collapse Disorder Presentation

The Commission will offer a viewing of the 45 minute PBS documentary "Bee Colony Collapse Disorder" on April 18th at the Sherman ESF building. Agriculturist Ray Clark will be presenting a discussion on bee keeping, as well as other related topics of discussion. Final details are forthcoming, such as refreshments and the best time of day.

Rock wall Program

Tabled to the next meeting.

Old Business

Happy Acres update

J. Wozniak-Brown has been in contact with the tenant farmers. They are adjusting to the house and learning the "lay of the land". The first goats have arrived and they are anticipating the laying chicks next month.

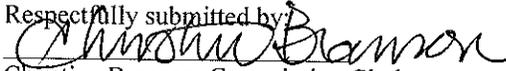
Natural Resource Inventory Report

Chair, Wm. McCann will disperse a letter to other Town's Boards and Commissions as well as citizens requesting input. Discussion followed regarding the addition of a map showing vernal pools and a list of inhabitants, such as fairy shrimp, wood frogs, small salamanders, etc. John Foley will follow up Hunter Brawley and seek his input. Discussion followed regarding obtaining updated maps from the Northwestern Conservation District. Mr. McCann stated he would like to begin updating the inventory and encouraged the Commission to look over the existing NRIR and bring notes in March. J. Wozniak- Brown will contact the Natural Heritage program and request a list of threatened and endangered species within the town. Mr. Seewagen recommended contacting the Army Corps of Engineers for records of wetlands.

Adjourn

P. Bailey Adjourned the Meeting at 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by:



Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

February 18, 2015