

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

**FINAL**

---

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

**Absent:** Joanna Wozniak- Brown and Lucille Hinkley

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

**Call to Order:**

**Chairman B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order** at 7:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

**P. Bailey Moved to Approve** the Minutes of January 14, 2015 as written  
**Seconded by:** C. Shulman    **Vote: For: Unanimous**

**Correspondence:**

Land Conservation Counsel- Conference on March 21, 2015 at Wesleyan University.

Planning & Zoning- Legal Warning of Regulations Change Public Hearing on May 7th, 2015.

Cary Institute- Eco- Systems Studies event, March 21st, 2015

Aquarian Water- 5th Anniversary Champion Awards, seeking nominations of outstanding volunteers, business or students, May 6th deadline.

Voice of Local Conservation, Northwestern District- notification of a plant sale at the Goshen fairgrounds

**New Business**

**Bee Colony Collapse Disorder Event planning**

The Commission will offer a viewing of the 45 minute PBS documentary "Silence of the Bees" on April 25th at the Sherman Library at 2:00 pm. Agriculturist Ray Clark will be presenting a discussion on bee keeping, as well as other related topics of discussion such as: impact on food production, and impact from use of household pesticides. Details that need to be finalized: refreshments, purchase of the movie and how it is projected.

**Rock wall Program**

The Commission read into record the proposed new Regulation for the Preservation of Stonewalls and Historic Features, which is set for a Public Hearing May 7th, 2015. The P&Z Commission is seeking input regarding the proposed amendment to the Sub-Division Regulations J. Foley referred Ian Gribble, local stonemason to G. Gwyther as a good resource. The goal for this program is to identify stonewalls on Town owned property that need traditional dry repair, and provide an educational program to the public. There was discussion regarding the recognition of historic stonewalls within the Town. This information could be discussed with the Historic District Commission.

**Natural Resource Inventory Report**

Chair, Wm. McCann has notified several of the Town's Boards and Commissions as well as individuals requesting input for the 2016 NRI update. The Commission would like to expand the inventory to include: insects, trees and shrubbery, also examples of notable trees in the Town, invasive species, endangered or threatened flora and fauna, and protection of Natural Wildlife Migration Corridors. The Commission read an excerpt from the 2013 POCD, page 11, in reference to protecting key habitat areas. The Commission will review the accuracy in several areas such as historic references of the Declaration of Rights and updating of maps to reflect recent changes to Town owned and conserved land.

**Old Business****FY 2015-16 Budget Discussion**

Chair, Wm. McCann submitted the proposed 2015-16 Budget to the BoS at the workshop. The proposed bottom line is \$ 1,900.00 which reflects an adjustment to the clerk's rate of pay as well as an addition of a Professional Development line and Public Outreach/ Program line. 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. Chair, Wm. McCann proposed the Sherman NRI could be printed " in house" by the clerk at an hourly rate reducing the cost significantly to approximately \$ 250.00 and the cost of materials. Mr. McCann also submitted a letter of explanation to accompany this FY year to date expenditures, the BoS will read this into record at the next Regular meeting.

**Happy Acres update**

Tabled to the next meeting.

**Adjourn**

P. Bailey Adjourned the Meeting at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

**APPROVED AS WRITTEN AT THE MAY 13, 2015 MEETING**