

SHERMAN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Acting Chair, Bill McCann, Joanna Wozniak, Geoff Gwyther, and Pat Bailey

Invited: John Foley

Also Present: Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

Call to Order: Acting Chair, B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:15 p.m.

Correspondence:

CT Association of Conservation, Wetlands and Commissions: Winter Habitat Newsletter

P&Z Commission- Notice of Public Hearing- Medical Marijuana Facilities and Dispensary Moratorium

Aquarian Water Co.- Annual request for local business recommendation for environmental award

Pat Caruso- In reference planning for the school garden

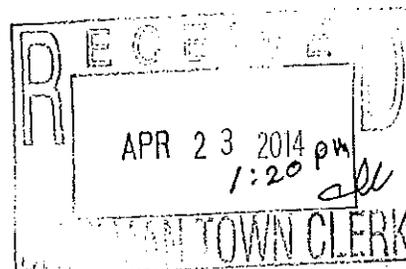
Business

Leadership: Co-Chairing

The Commissioners discussed sharing leadership for the next several months until a permanent chair is nominated. Joanna Wozniak has stepped down as chair as of the February 2014 meeting, but will continue as a Commissioner. Bill McCann has agreed to act as Chair for April, May and June, Colette Shulman has agreed to act as chair for July, August and September. In six months, the Commission is hopeful to have a nominee in place for permanent Chair. Geoff Gwyther was asked but for the time being declined the offer. The Commission discussed ways to recruit new members.

Invasive Walk Program April 19, 2014

In preparation for the coming walk and presentation, B. McCann has compiled information for several leaflets to educate the public on identifying invasive species. Mr. McCann has purchased a lucite display to be placed at the Town Hall as well as the Sherman Library. Discussion followed regarding the style and layout of the leaflets. John Foley provided several web links to the DEEP website for reference. Of the invasives, the ten most concerning to Sherman are: Multi-flora rose, honeysuckle, Russian olive, knotweed, phragmites, barberry, bittersweet, canary grass, purple loosestrife, and mile-a-minute vine. The intent of the walk/ presentation is to create awareness of these species at Town owned property as well as private properties. A speaker will conduct a presentation for approximately an hour and then the discussion will move outdoors to the Veteran's Field. The Commission has reached out to the local 4H club as well as Naromi for collaboration. The Commission agreed refreshments should be offered, J. Wozniak will bake cookies for the event. B. McCann requested approval from the Commission to spend up to \$40.00 for lucite display stands.



Commissioner J. Wozniak Moved to Approve the expenditure up to \$ 40.00 from the Conservation Commission Budget to reimburse Commissioner B. McCann for the cost of lucite displays.
Seconded by: P. Bailey Vote: For: Unanimous

Additional invasives discussion

In addition to the abovementioned invasives, garlic mustard, hog weed, milfoil and bamboo were identified as problematic.

Happy Acres Update

The Commission discussed recent recommendations from the HAFC to the BoS. The Committee has requested to be included with the RFP process. The Outreach Sub-Committee has successfully attracted additional members. There is discussion regarding the formation of a 501-c-3 foundation with hopes the Town will allow educational outreach programs and other events at the farm. If the Town were to allow a 501-c-3, it would open up many additional opportunities for grant funding and involvement from different entities. The Committee developed a power point presentation for the BoS, First Selectman Cope and Selectman Ostrosky were in attendance.

Kestrel Box Update

P. Bailey reported a formal request was sent to the BoS and read into record from Art Gingrich. Mr. Gingrich has proposed placing a kestrel box on Happy Acres Farm. Mrs. Bailey added, the boxes and banding of fledglings may attract an opportunity for community outreach. The Commission endorsed and supports the placement of the boxes on Happy Acres Farm.

Natural Resource Inventory Report update discussion

The Commission discussed beginning the process of updating the NRIR, the last time this was updated was in 2005. The update was previously funded by Iroquois, through a grant which Mrs. Kenneally pursued. The Commission agreed to reach out to those who worked on the last edition to see what files were preserved digitally. Further discussion will follow next month, the commission will generate ideas, edits at the May Meeting.

New Members

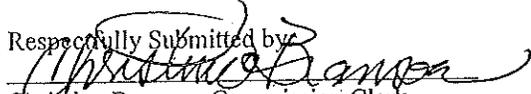
Following a brief discussion, John Foley was unanimously voted in as a new Commissioner.

Commissioner J. Wozniak Moved to nominate John Foley as a new member of the Sherman Conservation Commission.
Seconded by: Commissioner P. Bailey Vote: For: Unanimous

Adjournment:

Commissioner P. Bailey Adjourned the Meeting at 9:15p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by


Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

April 22, 2014