

**Conservation Commission**  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 13, 2015  
Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 PM

FINAL

**Members Present:** Bill McCann, Patricia Bailey, John Foley, and Lucille Hinkley

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

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

**Call to Order:**

Chairman B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:21 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

P. Bailey Moved to Approve the Minutes of January 14, 2015 and February 11, 2015 as written

Seconded by: J. Foley     Vote: For: Unanimous

**Correspondence:**

Aquarian Water- 5th Anniversary Champion Award reminder of May 6th deadline.

The Habitat, Spring 2015 newsletter

**New Business**

**Natural Resource Inventory Report**

Chair, Wm. McCann reported on the March workshop meeting. There have been several items submitted in reference to the update. Joanna Wozniak- Brown submitted a style guide with specific recommendations for submitting information. It was recommended the text be a single column. Pictures will be added later. Colette Shulman submitted edit suggestions for the introduction/ history section. The Commission discussed splitting main topics into small task groups and assigned "Chapter Captains":

Aquatic Resources- John Foley

Survey topics- Joanna Wozniak-Brown

Agricultural Resources- Pat Bailey

Threats to Natural Resources- Lucille Hinkley

Several topics still need to be claimed. New topics such as "Notable Trees" having a contest for the public to nominate notable trees in Sherman, submitting photos, measurements around, directions to the tree, and any historic data that may exist. "Recommendations to Homeowners": safe use of pesticides/ herbicides/ detergents as well as educational aspects for reduction of invasive species on private property. The Commission additionally discussed; Threats to Resources and cemeteries as open space?

**Rock Wall Program**

Discussion tabled until June.

## **Weed Warrior Days**

The Commission discussed possible dates for the next Weed Warrior days. It was determined the area that was focused on last year should be visited again after school lets out in mid to late June. Chair, B. McCann will reach out to NAROMI and other Town entities and see if they would be willing to join and work on finding a date that works for all. An additional concern is the wooded area to the right of Mallory Town hall.

## **Additional Programming Discussion**

The Commission discussed the recently defeated Septic Walkover Ordinance. The Commission agreed it is important for homeowners to be aware of the health of their septic system and the harmful effects a failing system can cause to the environment. An additional program possibility for October could be a discussion of "White Nose Syndrome and bats". The Sherman PTO has requested the participation of the Commission in a Family Science Night presentation. P. Baily is willing to participate and B. McCann as well. Chair B. McCann will reach out to C. Jellen to find out what other people are speaking on and will collaborate with Pat.

## **Old Business**

### **Bee Colony Collapse Disorder Event**

Chair, B. McCann reported on details of the April 25th viewing of "Silence of the Bees" on at the Library, there were approximately 30 people in attendance. Agriculturist Ray Clark spoke on bee keeping as well as other aspects. There were three bee keepers in the audience.

### **FY 2015-16 Budget Discussion**

Chair, Wm. McCann reported the proposed 2015-16 Budget was approved. The approved bottom line is \$ 1,950.00 which reflects the clerk's pay as well as Professional Development Public Outreach/ Program line. In addition to the operating Budget, the Commission had requested funding for the update of the Sherman Natural Resources Inventory, which was not approved or addressed. Chair, Wm. McCann will follow up with First Selectman C. Cope in reference to funding the updated Sherman NRI. Originally it was proposed to be printed " in house" by the clerk at an hourly rate reducing the cost significantly to approximately \$ 250.00 and the cost of materials.

### **Happy Acres update**

Chair, B. McCann reminded the Commission there will be an Open House at the Farm where all Sherman residents are invited to visit the farm, and have a complementary burger. There will be local music as well as events for children. The farm stand will be opening its doors for sales of farm grown produce and grass fed beef products. The Commission briefly discussed a newly proposed ordinance that has been brought to the Kent First Selectman and Planning and Zoning Commission for review for the "Right to Farm Ordinance". Chair B. McCann requested the Commission look at the proposed ordinance and consider bringing a similar proposal to the Sherman Planning and Zoning Commission and BoS. This discussion will continue at the next Meeting.

## **Adjourn**

**P. Bailey Adjourned** the Meeting at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Christine Branson, Commission Clerk  
APPROVED AS FINAL June 10, 2015