

Conservation Commission

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 PM

FINAL

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

Absent: Joanna Wozniak- Brown and Geoff Gwyther

Also Present: D. Lowe, and Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes

Tabled until next meeting.

Correspondence:

CT Land Conservation Council- membership application

Budget Discussion:

Chair, Wm. McCann reported the Fiscal Year 2014-15 closed at approximately \$ 400.00 as anticipated.

New Business

Natural Resource Inventory Report

Chair, Wm. McCann suggested the Commission meet August 3rd at 7:00 pm to conduct a workshop to go over updates instead of using meeting time. Mr. McCann will send out an email to work out the time and date with the rest of the Commission.

Weed Warrior Days

The Commission discussed the latest cutting of knotweed at the school about a week and a half ago. Approximately ten people showed up. The Commission intends to conduct another cutting in approximately three weeks. Mr. McCann has contacted a representative at DEEP regarding use of pesticides and will report at the next meeting follow up information. Because this is on school property, there are strict limitations to what can be used on the knot weed. Discussion about fencing in the area took place.

Milkweed Program-

Commissioner G. Gwyther proposed introducing a new program for this coming year to revitalize and strengthen the milkweed population in Sherman. There was a significant die out in the past due to genetically modified corn and pesticides. The absence of milkweed has a large impact on the monarch butterfly. Mr. Gwyther feels planting milkweed at Munch Meadows as well as the problem areas where the knotweed has been cut would be ideal places to start. Commissioner Foley recommended getting the school involved to conduct studies over the next few years to track sightings and statistics. The Commission discussed writing a letter to the Board of Selectman to request the maintenance mowing discontinue at Munch Meadow to revitalize natural flora and encourage milkweed growth.

Old Business

Happy Acres update

Commissioner C. Shulman reported she has been volunteering at the farm stand. The farm tenants have been staying positive despite recent controversy concerning the number of cattle and new grass fed practices. The ideal number of cattle the farm can support is around 40. Currently there are 70 including calves. Customers have been requesting honey and eggs. The public seems to be complaining less in reference to the roadside mowing.

Public Comment-

D. Lowe- was happy to hear the Commission is working to revitalize Munch Meadows as a natural setting.

Adjourn

C. Shulman Adjourned the Meeting at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Christine Branson, Commission Clerk
APPROVED AS FINAL September 9, 2015