

## Conservation Commission

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 PM

FINAL

**Members Present:** Bill McCann, Patricia Bailey, Lucille Hinkley Geoff Gwyther

**Absent:** Colette Shulman and Joanna Wozniak- Brown

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

**Call to Order:**

Chairman B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:15p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

There were no Minutes to approve.

**Correspondence:**

No correspondence was received.

**New Business**

### **Weed Warrior event planning**

Chair, B. McCann reported the progress from the last cutting which took place approximately a month ago. The Commission discussed the next steps if the knotweed returns. There was a brief discussion regarding the application of glyphosate by a licensed operator, however it was quickly agreed that this goes against the philosophy of the Commission. Chair McCann agreed to look into the costs for hiring someone with trained goats to eat the knotweed instead. Chair McCann stated he would contact the First Selectman to request the installation of the split rail fencing. The location for the next Weed Warrior project was discussed. The Commission agreed they would like to concentrate efforts along the walking track behind the school. Chair McCann stated he would contact the First Selectman and request a meeting with the IWWC to get approval for removing invasives in a wetland area.

### **Munch Meadow**

Chair McCann reported he will be representing the Commission serving on the Open Space Land Acquisition Board. Last year the Parks and Recreation Commission agreed to allow the field to grow and return to a meadow mowing only once a year. It was agreed that the wet area would be mowed in the colder part of the year so that it causes less of an impact. The dry part would be mowed in the early spring. There was discussion regarding placing a fence near the road to deter folks from driving into the property. First Selectman Cope agreed, and said there once was a fence there, he will discuss a mowing schedule with the DPW.

### **Stonewalls**

The Commission discussed details of a future event to be held at the Great Hollow by Ian Gribble to demonstrate the restoration of stonewalls. Geof Gwyther has stepped down from the Commission and this project. Chair McCann thanked Mr. Gwyther for his many years of service to the Town and the Commission.

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**Old Business**

**Happy Acres Farm**

The farm stand is officially open, offering eggs, beef, and vegetables. The tenants would like to secure apprenticeships and have more community events in the future. The lease has been modified to only bear the names of the remaining tenants.

Chair McCann stated he has not heard of any progress of a Farming Ordinance and will write to the P&Z Commission with recommendations of the Conservation Commission.

**NRIR&R Outline Workshop Scheduling**

Chair McCann stated he sent the outline to the Commissioners and hopes for their feedback and input during a series of workshops. Dates discussed were July 24, 2016 where P. Baily and J. Wozniak- Brown have agreed to attend. Other proposed dates will follow in an email to the Commission and others who have volunteered their expertise.

**Public Comment-**

No one was present to speak.

**Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted:

  
Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

July 20, 2016

**APPROVED AS FINAL AT THE AUGUST 10, 2016 RMM**