

**NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**January 16, 2024 @ 6pm.  
New Town Hall Conference Room  
Rescheduled Meeting**

**MINUTES:**

Call to order: 6:03pm

Attendance: W. Ricker, S. Colgan, A. Vlieks, R. Degoursey

Regrets: M. Dumont, D. Farrand, J. Strunk

Guests/Public Comments: None

Minutes of November '23 meeting: Accepted, voted 4:0

**OLD BUSINESS:**

-Bicycle Trail Brochure:

Work continues with the help of the Town IT technician. It was established unequivocally during the Nov. '23 BOS meeting that the State of Connecticut Enduro Trails, established in the 1970s, fall entirely under the jurisdiction of the State of Connecticut. The Enduro trails will be included in the North Stonington Bike Trail brochure as a courtesy to enhance the experience of those using the brochure.

- Resolution of the Swantown Intrusion Issue Discussed at the Nov. 2023 BOS meeting:

The settlement agreed upon required the MPTN to pay the Town the sum of \$5,000. The BOS allocated \$2,500 to the Land Acquisition Fund and \$2,500 to pay the Town Attorney. The Commissioners agreed that, based on the scope of the violation, the settlement amount was somewhat inadequate. Concern was raised that the settlement amount might set a bad precedent by encouraging future violators.

-Lake view North Subdivision:

Ricker and Strunk completed the monitoring report and filed it. Note that this location is not a conservation easement but is, instead, a non-disturbance site. No issues were noted.

-Community Calendar:

Calendar sales have been modest. Sales efforts will continue.

**NEW BUSINESS**

-Quarterly Article:

The Winter 2024 edition highlighted opportunities for preserving land parcels. More detailed information will be provided in future issues.

-2024-25 Budget

The existing budget items from the '23-'24 budget will be retained. Due to finding a more inexpensive printer it was agreed to reduce the overall budget request for 2024 by several hundred dollars.

-Memo to the BOS on the land Acquisition Fund Alternative:

It was decided that the CC will forward a request to the BOS that all, or a portion of, the Town's conveyance fee revenue be directed into the Land Acquisition Fund, bolstering the current budget allocation and calendar sales revenue.

-Call for 2025 Calendar Photos:

The theme is "North Stonington Waterways: Lakes, Ponds and Streams". A number of photos are already on file but the CC is requesting more submissions.

-Conservation Easement Inspections:

These are required every five years. Current inspections that are due were assigned to the Commissioners.

-ADA Trail Grant Application:

We will contact DEEP in hopes of identifying what sections of the previous submission were criticized or rejected. It was noted that the terms of the grant were based on a "spend and request reimbursement" provision. We will clarify those terms and conditions.

-Connecticut Trails Day:

Commissioner Colgan noted that the annual CT. Trails Day is scheduled for June. The Commission will organize a trail walk. Details TBD.

Adjournment: 7:30pm. Voted 4:0

Respectfully Submitted:

Bob Degoursey, secretary pro tem