

NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
North Stonington New Town Hall
June 27, 2013 @ 6:00 pm
Minutes

RECEIVED

2013 JUL -1 A 10:09

TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
NORTH STONINGTON

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Bill Ricker, Chair, Dick Blodgett, Vice Chair., Joe Spano, Sec., Mike Charnetski, alt., Bob Fleury, Treas. Pat Lewis, alt., Warren Speh
Absent: none

Action on May 23, 2013 minutes: reviewed and accepted.

Treasure's report: Spent \$526 total trail sign cost. \$250 bal. left. Motion(Dick Blodgett, second by Bob Fleury): spend the \$250 on other needed signs. Accepted. 5-0-0

Citizen Comments: George Finch of the Groton Sportsman Club along with Warren Speh made the commission aware of a proposed 600yd rifle range in Voluntown/North Stonington. Because of safety and wetland reasons they oppose this project.

Officer and committee reports: under unfinished business.

Unfinished Business:

Trail Signage (Hangman Hill and Asseconk Preserve) .Sign company has prepared the signs. Plans made to dig holes and place signs.

Notable Tree program: no changes.

James Drakos letter: request to use existing trail on his property to avoid wet part of Chester Main Bridle trail was ok'd by Mr Drakos. Last month we used License Agreement samples provided by Norma Holliday, and drafted an agreement. It was sent to the town attorney . He has sent it back for final review. We reviewed it and sent it back with a few questions and corrections. We are waiting for a response. From Mr. Drakos.

Update on calendar cost - Bob Fluery: suggests that we order 600 at \$5 each = \$3000. We will ask for a loan and/or help from EDC , BOS ,BOF , N.S. Historical Society and N.S. Photo club to be paid when the calendars are sold.

New Business: POCD document- J. Leeming. Bob Fluery prepared a town map of properties that should be preserved and gave reasons why for each property (Bob will give a name to each). This will be overlaid with a map showing all properties that are now preserved. The commission decide to meet 4 Thursdays during July to work on this project. See Bill Ricker's 6/27/13 email for dates and details of each meeting.

Correspondence: Conn. Wildlife magazine(eel article), CACIWC newsletter, letter from Frank Eppinger concerning 5.5 acres of open space(Elfenbein Esposito & Weston, Downs Patterson ,Lots 7&8). Motion to turn over to North Stonington. 5-0-0.

Member forum: Pat Lewis' Conservation & Recreation Lands suggestions were reviewed.

Adjournment: Motion & seconded to adjourn @ 8:03pm.

Conservation Commission & Recreation Lands Suggestions 6/2013

Buffer Zone to protect farms, when development occurs next to farms.
Protect Farms (and farmlands used by working farms) from the impact of and dangers of increased traffic and businesses (like water parks, lights and excessive noise)

Walking Paths in front of property that could connect to other properties, instead of in lieu of money for conservation property not appropriate for conservation. (e-mailed Don Poland but never heard back from him about an example he used)

Create an Open Space Land Acquisition Fund and Committee (See town of Griswold)

Public swimming area . Consider asking State for property at Wyassup Lake for property at Wyassup or inquire about private lake front lots for sale(Lakewiew).

Public swimming and gathering area for recreation at the former YMCA camp. Beautiful pavilion with bathrooms makes this a practical place for resident use, especially important as the west and NW part of town grows.

Consider increase in lot size on Northern Boundary, especially Northwest section. This would balance any increase in town growth on the Western area of town. Larger lots with larger homes may provide increased tax revenue. We are submitting our last recommendations to change zoning near West border as before to include affordable housing, (preferable senior housing), and inquire if able to tie into water and sewer of Foxwoods. If not available should review if using Lake of Isles as water source for development in the West Industrial zone.

Suggest State improve Rt 95 at intersection of 95 and Route 2 to keep traffic flowing in that area and not dump traffic onto back roads.

Road side Pull off on Rt 184 and Rt 2 for farm vehicles (as well as cell phone use).

Protect Areas of water sources, wells, and aquaphors.

Encourage research and development growth, IT firms, technology companies, and businesses that will not impact an increase in noise, traffic, or second source pollution.

After reviewing the concern that only TWO windmills may have on the rural community of Charleston RI, we may want Wind Farms to be reviewed. Supporting large solar or individual wind turbines might be a quieter alternative.

No expansion of commercial zones.

Proposed 600 yard Rifle Range in Voluntown/North Stonington

- Range will be as close to 600 yards as feasible using natural terrain for a safe impact area. Impact zone will be excavated and material installed.
- 50 yard and 100 yard impact areas will also be created. Range will be 50 feet in width across the brook south of the pond with long range impact into the hillside.
- Range will only be open between Hunting Seasons (June 1 through August 31)
- Range operational hours will be 9:00 am until 5:00 pm.
- Range can be used for Special Events during hunting season periods with approval of the Membership. Dates shall be coordinated with the Archery, Grounds and Game Committees.
- The range may be closed at any time for safety reasons. Notice shall be given to the membership
- Any topsoil will be saved for reuse as defined by the Project Coordinator

Construction by Contractor

- Trees will be cut at ground level and removed from the range lane as defined by the Range Project Coordinator.
- Build a 10' x 10' building for shooting benches. Complete with cement footing and slab. A lockable overhead door will secure the building when not in use.
- Estimated Cost for Contractor Work: \$9,608.42
- **Budget Request:** Not to exceed \$10,000

Club Tasks to Complete

- Build Shooting Benches and Gun Racks
- Install warning signs on both sides along the length of the range and along the ridge behind the 600 yard impact area.
- Install gate up by pheasant pen
- Install cables (at least 3) at other dirt road entrances
- Establish range safety rules and sign in/out requirements

Subject: July CC schedule

From: WilliamRicker@comcast.net (WilliamRicker@comcast.net)

To: richardblodgettjr@comcast.net; plewis7577@aol.com; BIRCHHILLB@aol.com; joespano2002@yahoo.com; sptsmnwgs@juno.com; mcharnetski@aquarionwater.com;

Cc: zeo@northstoningtonct.gov;

Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 8:40 PM

Commissioners-

In order to revise and complete the PoC&R for POCD we have agreed to meet every Thursday through July from 6-8 pm

Week 1, July 4th @ The Town Hall Mapping of all OS, CE's, Land Trust, trails, land desired by CC to be acquired.

Week 2 July 11th place to be determined Review of Richard's material w/Pat's additions. Homework needed by reviewing his handout.

Week 3 July 18th " " " " Address Juliet's comments on tonight's handout. See her notes in column. Be specific.

Week 4 July 25th " " " " Rewrite PoC&R

Juliet will be at as many of the sessions as her schedule & time allows. Please place on your calendar to assure remembering.

Joe to find out from Robin the availability of the Senior Center, if not the school media center. ~Bill

Subject: July CC schedule

From: WilliamRicker@comcast.net (WilliamRicker@comcast.net)

To: richardblodgettjr@comcast.net; plewis7577@aol.com; BIRCHHILLB@aol.com; joespano2002@yahoo.com; sptsmnwgs@juno.com; mcharnetski@aquarionwater.com;

Cc: zeo@northstoningtonct.gov;

Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 8:40 PM

Commissioners-

In order to revise and complete the PoC&R for POCD we have agreed to meet every Thursday through July from 6-8 pm

Week 1, July 4th @ The Town Hall Mapping of all OS, CE's, Land Trust, trails, land desired by CC to be acquired.

Week 2 July 11th place to be determined Review of Richard's material w/Pat's additions. Homework needed by reviewing his handout.

Week 3 July 18th " " " " Address Juliet's comments on tonight's handout. See her notes in column. Be specific.

Week 4 July 25th " " " " Rewrite PoC&R

Juliet will be at as many of the sessions as her schedule & time allows. Please place on your calendar to assure remembering.

Joe to find out from Robin the availability of the Senior Center, if not the school media center.
~Bill