

NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting @ New Town Hall Conference Room
May 24, 2018 @ 6:00pm
Minutes

Mission: For the development, conservation, supervision, and regulation of natural and historic resources, including water resources, within its territorial limits. (adopted September 2007)

Call to order:

Roll Call: 6:02 p.m.

Present: Bill Ricker, Arnie Vlieks, Steve Colgan, Bob Degoursey, Doug Farrand,

Regrets: Jason Mancini, Mike Charnetski,

Citizen Comments: none

April 2018 Minutes: accepted as written

Treasurer's Report: nothing spent this path month

Ongoing Business:

Updates:

- Stewart Hill Trail cleanup – done – some material down. 4 members helped out. Trail is now in good shape.
- Notable Trees (2 to follow up) – need a seed pod from the pecan/butternut tree.
- Wild flower seeding – Mike – not done yet.
- Pocket Park winter kill. Poison ivy needs to be put down (Bill). Need some organic fertilizer on the grass (Steve).
 - Post meeting note: 2 bags of organic fertilizer was spread (\$27.78 – reimbursement requested)
- Fracking Ordinance. CC wants to add “pollutant and contaminated waste” – so these need to be defined. Steve to print out legal definitions for discussion next month. This needs some thought as items like reclaimed asphalt may fall into this category.
- 2019 calendar progress: town hiking trails. Still need pictures of mountain bikers and horseback riders.
- Continue review of map and include properties we would like to add to map of future Recreation and Conservation lands
- Interactive trail map: can't start till paper map completed.
- Report from on Senior Project initiative – Jason – deferred.

New Business:

- Bell-Cedar parcel # 111-C (material e-mailed to you) – Bill. We would need to hire an attorney to research this and may need a survey. Based on consideration that this is a wetland and is not used and not likely to be used – CC consensus is to drop it or just inform Avalonia that they could pursue this if they want to (Action Bill – to notify Avalonia)
- OS/CE Regulations draft packet – Bill
- Letter to Stonington CC sent by Bill – no response – dropping this now.

Review of 2018 Open Space/Conservation Easement Regulations 2018

Contents:

- Conservation Easement Acceptance Criteria for the Town of N. Stonington (Dec2015)
- Protocol for the Monitoring of N.S tonington's Conservation easements and open space parcels memorandum (presented to BOS by Bill Ricker 05Jan2018).
- Decision Tree: Landowner or Developer proposed Conservation Easement or Open Space. (version 14Jan2010)
- Minutes BOS meeting 09Jan2018 – highlighting proposal to monitor town owned open space and conservation easements at 5 year intervals.
- Annotated tally of Open Space, Conservation easements, and town owned open space.

Discussed need to update the tally of development/usage – restricted properties & conservation easement list to update package.

- Several recent parcels noted, including Avalonia Land Trust's Tri-Town (300+ acre) parcel.

Conservation Planning Discussion Followed:

- Review of existing map of Desired Areas for Future Recreation or Preservation (Desired Areas for Future Preservation Numbers Relate to Pg13 of "Plan for Conservation and Development Revised 2013")

Action Items for future consideration by commissioners:

- Review materials in the Regulations Package and brainstorm on how to improve / clarify responsibilities.
- Update the Recreation/ Open space/ Present space map to reflect current state.
Brainstorm Opportunities:
- Identify parcels of property that may enhance the east/central/ or west greenway corridors.
- Identify potentially beneficial parcels for future recreation or protection.
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Adjournment: 7:35PM