

**NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**New Town Hall Conference Room**  
**January 24, 2019 @ 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: 6:03 p.m.

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

Regrets: Jason Mancini

Guests: Chris Diaz (NoSto Director of Administration and Finance)

Citizen Comments - none

Review of October minutes & Special Meeting minutes (November meeting pre-empted by Selectmen event): no comments. Special Meeting minutes (the January 6 hike of the Tri-Town Preserve and the Puttker Road property) was also approved.

Ongoing Business:

1. BOS accepted and approved OS/CE packet. Now held in Land Use office for action when needed.
2. The Yearly CC report was reviewed briefly
3. Winter Quarterly article (brief summary)
4. Outstanding reports on trail maintenance – all. Doug: Assekong Borderlands – looks good, Arnie: Stewart Preserve – 2 trees need to be cut up in the Spring (but not a safety issue at present) – some weed whacking done. Bob: some of the trail on Hangman Hill is hard to find – we need some more of the blue discs to put on the trail.
5. Update of rototilling/seeding at Pocket park – Mike - still needs to be done. The trees are doing well – the deer are not interested.
6. 2019 Calendar sales - still a few left (about 25) Sales” \$960 to date returned to general fund
  - a. Planning for 2021: Events? Commissioners to get ideas to Bill – (none received).
7. Movement of interactive trail map. The bank wants it back in April for a month and the Library wants it stored there as its permanent home. Avalonia would like to borrow it at some time.

New Business:

1. Convenience store application: There is a seasonal brook that flows under 184 and onto the property that fronts the road that needs to be addressed. The inland wetlands commissions should be notified about this application. Since the property is on top of the aquifer, P&Z will need to ensure that all containment regulations are strictly adhered to. Accidental spills and tank leakage are a concern. Bill will write a letter to Juliette and P&Z summarizing these concerns.
2. 2019-2020 Budget request: \$2K (100 less than last year). Calendar sales are anticipated to return most of this.

3. Request by First Selectman to advise BOS on "SustainabilityCT" Bill attended @ 3 Rivers CC. Bill was not impressed – lots of work for not much return. Bill reported out to Mike.
4. Request by First Selectman to advise on Avalonia request for \$40,000  
Reasons in support of Avalonia's request include:
  - a. Trails will be open for all NoSto residents
  - b. 21% for open space is specified as the target for the state of CT (we currently are at 10%)
  - c. Consistent with POCD (p21 #4 & #8) – protects the Green Falls aquifer
  - d. It will result in an increase in property values
  - e. Avalonia will be responsible for land maintenance
  - f. Allows NoSto to gain more open space than if we tried to do this on our own (only with town monies)
  - g. Will improve quality of life of NoSto residents
  - h. Consistent with developing eastern and western greenway corridors though NoSto
  - i. The town is getting a lot more than money being asked.

Motion to use \$40K from out land acquisition fund and give to Avalonia to support the purchase of the Tri-town Preserve and the Puttker property was approved unanimously by the CC.

Voted: 5-0-0

5. Review 2018 goals & establish 2019 Goals - postponed until Feb

Correspondence: Brad Borden letter & response

Handouts: 12-18-18 article on DEEP grants, Wildlife magazine

Adjournment: 7:32

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Colgan, Secretary