

NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Town Hall Conference Room
May 23, 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: 6:06 p.m.

Present: Steve Colgan, Bill Ricker, Bob DeGoursey, Arnie Vlieks, Mike Charnetski, Jason Mancini, Doug Farrand

Regrets: None

Guest: Ben Doble, Thomas Thompson, Arthur Doble

Citizen Comments: Would we define what constitutes a conservation easement. Discussion.

Review of April minutes: Accepted as written

Treasury: No change from last month

New Business:

1. Google mapping of CE monitoring.
4 properties are due to be monitored (#18 actually done, but not recorded – Doug to finish the paperwork). Bill and Arnie to monitor #5 (Shunock/Mains Crossing); Jason to monitor #20 (Lakeview West Subdivision) - Bill and Bob to monitor #12 (Chester Main Bridle Trail)
2. Review our recommendations for land acquisition
In review – our rationale was captured in our January meeting minutes. Going forward, it was recommended to not use “donation” when describing this – but to use “investment” instead. Also it recommended to have a hand-out available at the next town meeting that details things like: we give to library and many other organizations, town trucks plow many church parking lots, the Land Acquisition Fund can be only be used for land – nothing else, other towns do this (Ledyard). The AG’s office approved such use of town funds (get this in writing). Action item: develop a fact sheet the BOS can hand out at the next town meeting. Steve to draft an initial list – to be completed at our June meeting.
3. Getting a head start on NoStoFest booth (tree giveaways?)
There was a consensus to give away trees again this year. Also to use the interactive map to highlight where the Tri-town property is along with all the other hiking trails in town.
Action: Bill will order trees prior to NoStoFest
4. Interactive map to Chelsea-Groton Bank
One LED light needs to be moved. Action: Bill to get ‘er done

Ongoing Business:

1. Kayak/canoe trail – Bill. Wood Pawcatuck river is a Wild and Scenic River as of April. The “put-in” location at Boombridge Road bridge cannot be moved forward until RI and CT fully sign the papers.
2. Outstanding reports on trail maintenance. Mike made many blue circle signage for our trails. Bob & Bill will start with Hangman Hill Preserve.
3. Update of rototilling/seeding at Pocket park. Wait until next year. Park looks good.

Correspondence: None

Handouts: Update of Open Space & Conservation monitoring schedule.

Adjournment: 7:20

Draft of considerations to partner with Avalonia on land acquisition – to be completed in June.

From our January 2019 minutes:

Reasons in support of Avalonia’s request include:

1. Trails will be open for all NoSto residents
2. 21% for open space is specified as the target for the state of CT (we currently are at 10%)
3. Consistent with POCD
4. It will result in an increase in property values
5. Avalonia will be responsible for land maintenance
6. Allows NoSto to gain more open space than if we tried to do this on our own (only with town monies)
7. Will improve quality of life of NoSto residents
8. Consistent with developing eastern and western green corridors though NoSto

Additional considerations:

1. NoSto donates to many other organizations and non-profits including
 - a. Pawcatuck Neighborhood Society
 - b. Wheeler Library
 - c. The Volunteer Fire Department
 - d. Plowing the parking lots of several Churches
 - e. The list should be comprehensive.....
2. Land acquisition funds are designated for land acquisition .
3. If the decision is not to invest our funding with Avalonia – it will sit in the bank unused.
 - a. Avalonia has worked with Ledyard & Preston who have invested with them infor land within their town.

Motion made & seconded to adjourn @ 8:20pm

Voted: 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Colgan, Secretary