

NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting @ New Town Hall Conference Room
February 22, 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: 6:05 p.m.

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

Regrets: Mike Charnetski,

Guests: None

Citizen Comments: None

January 2018 Minutes: Accepted as written

Treasurers Report: Bill purchased some ink.

Ongoing Business:

Updates:

- Notable Trees: Arnie
 - Conn College has received the report and will look it over.
 - ~ 34 trees evaluated – none are the largest in the State
 - This project is now complete
- Chester Main Bridle Trail: Their progress on developing a HOA
 - HOA will get something back to the town within a month.
- Water Tower – Received Lenard Engineering LLC report
 - 2 sites behind EMS building possible
 - 300,000 gallon water tower construction - \$1,160,000. Slightly higher price on the State-owned parcel (\$14,500 more). Based on this, it does not appear to make sense to continue pursuing making a land swap with the State.
 - This would service all schools, all of the center of town, library, fire hydrant. It also would have a large amount of water that could be used for an extensive fire.
 - This project is now closed for us as the CC was only offering to pursue the state application for a Town/State land swap.
- Wild flower seeding – almost time to seed – Mike to check the literature for timing.
- Fracking Ordinance:
 - Town has accepted the CC draft letter with modifications to include polluted and contaminated material.
 - This needs to be approved by the town – likely at a town meeting.
- “Conveyance Fee”
 - Exclusively used for conservation. Can be used to purchase land or other things
 - Up to 1% buyers fee for properties above \$150K
 - Selectmen approved “putting us on the list”. A bill for the legislature is currently being discussed. Bill will represent NS at the State Capital. Our position is that we want the legislation passed. What we ultimately do as a town to be determined later.
- Action on a trail display board.
 - No action yet
- 2017 report to BOF
- 2019 calendar progress: town hiking trails
 - Some pictures have been taken – skiers, snow shoe hikers – others have been planned.

- Review map and include properties we would like to add to map of future Recreation and Conservation lands
 - Several parcels were identified and marked on town draft map.
- 2018 Goals & Objectives: next steps
 - Considerable progress has been made on 5 out of the 8 goals for current 2018 year

New Business:

- Use North Stonington Quarterly on our quest for greenway establishment
 - This could be a senior project. Action: Jason to contact the person in charge of senior projects – we should propose a project or 2
 - A more detailed plan for a senior project would be needed by April
 - An idea would be to work to develop an interactive map/App that identified historical sites in town as well as interesting natural sites. People would use their phones and the App to “discover” these sites. Action: Jason to follow up
- 1.9 – expand boundaries in town. Action: meet with HS and P&Z if requested (now considered complete).
- 3.4 – work with Eastern, Conn, etc. and their GIS programs to find students that might draw maps for us.
 - This goal had been merged with map/App project detailed above.

Handouts: Wetlands Science Conference, “Avalonia Trails”, CT Land Conservation Conference brochure

Correspondence: Aquarion letter

- We will pass this year.

Adjournment: 7:37 p.m.