

**North Stonington Conservation Commission**  
**24 June 2021 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Old High School Media Center**  
**Regular Meeting**

**Minutes**

Meeting called to order by W. Ricker at 6:00 pm

Attendance: W. Ricker, A. Vlieks, D. Farrand, R. Degoursey(seated)

Regrets: J. Mancini, S. Colgan, M. Charnetski

Also present: J. Hodge, M. Urgo

Citizen comments: none

Minutes: May 2021 accepted as written.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Year End Report, 2020, read and approved. The Commission report will be included in the Annual Town report in the land use section.

- Firefly Farm Proposal:

The proposal to change inspection requirements has been forwarded to the town attorney. It has not yet been presented to the Attorney General's office. Current inspection protocol is too cumbersome, i.e., we must send owner a certified letter of a pending inspection, identify each inspector, date & time of inspection, etc. It was decided that the Chairman will draft an email to the Selectmen requesting that the Commission proposal be put on the State docket.

- Kayak Launch Site:

The MPTN sent a letter to the Town regarding the site. The Selectman sent a copy to the Town Attorney and the Town's insurance carrier for comment. A revision was then sent to Keith Gove at the MPTN for comment. We await a response.

- Kayak Site Signage:

The Chairman found a new company, Ames Finish Signs, which will produce signs for \$75/unit. This is a significant savings compared to Caruso Signs, which were \$300/ unit. There was a consensus to the aluminum signs from Ames Finish Signs.

- Pocket Park:

Mowing in July: Degoursey. Colgan will fertilize. Markers will be moved to better identify vulnerable section which received vehicular damage.

- Private CE signs on lower Chester Main Trail:

Replacing signs postponed until peak of tick season passes.

- Calendar Progress:

Only six farms have responded with no photos submitted. Degoursey and Ricker will meet and review photo libraries to try to supplement calendar with wildlife photos.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Kayak Launch Site Completion:

As soon as we receive permission the Commission will schedule a cleanup day at the Kayak site in North Stonington.

- Quarterly Article:

The members reviewed and approved the article drafted by the Chairman; a shortened version of the Annual Report. The Commission will also include photos in the submission.

- Trail Map and Brochure Replacements:

The publications have received an enthusiastic public response. Addition copies have been printed and will be distributed. Many thanks to Juliet Hodge for her assistance in developing these documents. It was also noted that our grant writer was instrumental in procuring a \$1,000 grant to support this effort. Amy Kennedy suggested that the Wheeler Library charge \$.25 /map to accrue some small revenue. Of note: Ricker reported the Conservation Commission in Westerly has a \$27K budget and could help us if we need additional money at our launch site.

- July CC Meeting Revision:

Scheduling conflicts preclude holding a July meeting. It was decided to cancel the regularly scheduled July meeting and hold an August meeting (normally an open month) instead. The special meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 26 August, at 6pm. at the Hewitt Park pavilion.

- Additional Comment:

Selectman Urgo commented on a public nuisance problem at Blue Lake which was brought to his attention. People have been congregating at the boat launch site in significant numbers to hold parties and consume alcohol. When confronted by state conservation officers (ENCONN) they have used the excuse that they are parking there to access the town owned trail. The parking area is intended for fishermen and boat launch activities only. ENCONN suggested that we consider modifying or eliminating the trailhead as a solution because they do not have sufficient manpower to control the situation. The Commission's response to this suggestion was negative. It was suggested to consult with our absent Commission member, a long-time lake resident and past president of Billings Lake Association to get further insight into the nature of this problem.

### **Final Comment:**

During the upcoming Boombridge Road Bridge dedication it was suggested that we might consider a kayak parade down to Pawcatuck River as part of the commemoration ceremony.

Meeting adjourning circa 7:10 pm.

Voted 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted:

Bob Degoursey- secretary pro tem

