

**NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting @ New Town Hall Conference Room**  
**October 26, 2017 @ 6:00pm**  
**Minutes**

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*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

Roll Call

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

Regrets: none

Guests: Juliet Hodge

Citizen Comments

Review of September 2017 special meeting minutes – accepted as written

Ongoing Business:

Updates:

- Notable Trees: The Day reporter has left the Day. Action: Arnie & Bill have a couple trees to add to the list. We will wait for leaf fall for last tree in the Bell-Cedar swamp. An e-mail from couple at NoSto Fair was received to look at several trees on their property.
- Chester Main Bridle Trail results: Give back to homeowners' association. The Conservation Commission needs to monitor the trail as it is now a private conservation easement. The homeowners' association still needs to be formed. Since there is no statue on how often CE's need to be monitored, we can determine the frequency for monitoring. Bill suggested to monitor CEs every 5-years. A proposal has been sent to the 1<sup>st</sup> selectman (Sean) for the CC to come up with a protocol. Juliet thinks that 5 years is too long and thought that each CE should be monitored every 3 years due to the fact a structure built on a CE that long would be eligible to remain and the town cannot force its removal. She is not sure if this applies to CEs. Action – a protocol will be generated to be forwarded to the selectmen for their consideration.

The CE comments on the proposed wording for monitoring of the CE was provided to the first selectmen. We believe that the home owners association now have 3 months to get back to the town with a finalized home owner association by laws, requirements for monitoring the CE, etc.

- Water Tower – No response from BOS
- Pocket Park update. Finished – but a car drove through part of the park – minimal damage. Looks Great! We need 1 more load of chips. \$825 left over – we can use this to replace plants that die. Mike still needs to spread wildflower seeds after a hard frost.
- Community Calendar sales: \$541 is sales so far. (\$10 each plus a \$1 donation)
- NoStoFest review: All Douglas Fir seedlings were given away to children.

New Business:

- November 16<sup>th</sup> – tentative social for commissions at Buon Appetito
- Juliet Hodge attendance & discussion of PCRL action plans.
- Our goals & objectives for this coming year.
  - Align goals with other land-use organizations e.g. Avalonia & NSCLA? This would be desirable. Put on our agenda on how to do this – for November meeting.
  - Better define and highlight corridors/greenways.
  - Identify the next “pocket park”
  - Generate a display board of all organizations trails similar to what the Historical society did for the NoStoFest. Bill to check out particulars.
  - Use North Stonington Quarterly on our quest for greenway establishment
    - This could be a senior project. Jason to contact the person in charge of senior projects – we should propose a project or 2
  - Idea for next year calendar: - Highlight town trails
  - 1.9 – expand boundaries in town. Action – meet with HS and P&Z.
  - 3.4 – work with Eastern, Conn, etc. and their GIS programs to find students that might draw maps for us.
  - Maintain pocket park – ongoing upkeep, finish grant paperwork. Evaluate park in a year. Put in a sign?
  - 2.3?

Handouts: Habitat newsletter, Avalonia newsletter, CACIWC conference

Correspondence: An e-mail complaint was received and read from a citizen.

Adjournment : 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Colgan, Secretary