

NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Rescheduled Regular Meeting @ New Town Hall Conference Room
November 30, 2017 @ 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 – 600 p.m.

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

Regrets: Doug Farrand,

Guests: Juliette Hodge (Staff Planning and Development Zoning Official), Joe DiBrino (NS Land Alliance), Betty Perkowski (NS Land Alliance), Pat Turner (Avalonia Land Conservancy), Bill Hixson (NS Land Alliance)

Citizen Comments:

Meet and discuss with NSCLA and Avalonia:

- Update new trails and land acquisitions since 2013 POCD was published.
- Assure accuracy of all new trails for interactive light board map and updated town trail map.
 - What should be marked on the map? Those parcels with trails only? – or should we include land available to the public but currently have no trails? Conclusion: note all parcels but specify those without trails.
 - Note – trails on Avalonia land can be viewed online. For Benson property and no name – Pat Turner to provide Bill a map showing trails on these properties.
- Better define desirable land acquisitions for western, central and eastern wildlife green corridors.

Ongoing Business:

Updates:

- Notable Trees: Arnie & Bill have measured 4 more trees. Waiting for hard freeze to go in Bell-Cedar swamp (ticks). A butternut tree has been found (route 2 and 201 intersection) – could be tallest in the State. Bill and Arnie to remeasure.
- Chester Main Bridle Trail results: An e-mail on establishing a monitoring protocol; sent to First Selectman Murphy. He advised we submit to new BOS. We will develop a protocol for the new administration. Homeowners are developing a homeowners' association. We still own monitoring the conservation easement. Bill went in last week and found a big pile of brush and pigs on part of the easement. A letter has been sent to the property owner by the PDZO requesting remediation of the mentioned violations.
- Water Tower – First Selectman has secured a firm to analyze the site and return with their findings before we act on a land trade. A new WPCA is being formed.
- Pocket Park update. New sign installed. Wild flower seeding will be soon (Mike). Wood chips were delivered today and need to be spread.
- Community Calendar sales: sold \$651 so far. We still have \$800 to sell.
- Action on a trail display board. Good discussion!
- Meet & Greet update. Several CC members attended – good meeting!

New Business:

- 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? Stone walls? Other?

- Agree on trails – and include a picture of something of interest on the trail.
- Try to take pictures to match the month
- 1.9 – expand boundaries in town. Action – meet with HS and P&Z. Will be discussed further – Bill to look to find a map that shows the historic overlay.
- 3.4 – work with Eastern, Conn, etc. and their GIS programs to find students that might draw maps for us. To show why these are areas of prime interest. This will be a focus of our January meeting.
- Next year's schedule – still 4th Thursday of each month at 6 pm. No meeting in Aug or Dec.
- Election of officers. Chair – Bill, Vice Chair – Mike, Secretary - Steve
- Fracking. The commissioners are in support of the proposed ordinance.
- We need an ordinance for monitoring conservation easements – to be given to the selectmen for approval. The timeframe should be specified (e.g. 3 years). We may be able to go to a 5 year rotation as a conservation easement may have more protection than for e.g. a homeowner putting up a shed too close to the property line which would be “legal” if not challenged within a 3-year window. Action – we need to ask an attorney.

Handouts: Habitat

Correspondence: Letters of thanks from Sean Murphy and Betty Perkowski related to the Pocket Park. Bill wrote a letter to Chelsea Groton thanking them for the PP grant donation. Post meeting note: Mike Urgo received an email from Mark Tardif (teacher) that High School students may be interested in helping out if new pocket parks will be developed.

Adornment: 8:15 p.m.