

NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting @ New Town Hall Conference Room
January 25, 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: 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Regrets: Jason Mancini,

Guests: Juliet Hodge and WPCA: Andrea Sadowski, Carl Johnston, Brad Currier, Bob Biosevain,

Citizen Comments:

Minutes: November 2017 meeting – accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: \$805.90 remaining from \$2100 budgeted

Ongoing Business:

Updates:

- Year-end report was sent to the Board of Finance. We have requested to maintain our \$2000 budget. \$1651 was returned to the General fund from calendar sales (at \$10 each). During the past 5 years, we have always returned for than \$1300 to the town.
- Community Calendar sales: Sold out! Total reimbursed to General Fund was \$1651. Cost: \$1127.88 + \$50 expenses = 1177.88 or a \$523.12 profit. Q: If we had 150 calendars and gave 10 to P&Z and therefore sold 140 at \$10, how did I turn in \$1651?
- Approval from BOS to monitor CE/OS every 5 years. This will result in 6-7 checks per year. Firefly farm is a private open space – this is the only one in town. We need to monitor this one twice per year per the deed. Further discussions (Bill) resulted that we still will send them a certified letter but we won't need to walk the 35 acres. Dugun Tillman Brown (a trustee) has agreed to this. It will just be to confirm via a conversation with a CC member that no building or other modifications of the CE have been made.
- Goals & Objectives:
 - Electronic interactive play board: update trails over last 5 yrs.
 - A map was developed with Jim Russell – some modifications still are needed.
 - Update Conservation & Recreation Lands mapping: better define desirable land for acquisition
 - Remapping of aquifer
 - Jason Mancini thought that this could be a Senior High School Project. We need to get some ideas to the Senior Project Coordinator at Wheeler High School.
 - Bill found an EPA map of an aquifer on-line (but this could be a watershed). Comment from Juliet was that there is more than one was to determine an aquifer. Perhaps a student can research where the aquifer truly is.
 - Fracking and polluted/contaminated waste dumping ordinance.
 - ~ 6- towns in CT are developing ordinances to prohibit the town from accepting fracking waste. NS Selectmen have agreed in principle to move forward an ordinance to prohibit acceptance of fracking waste. This eventually be voted on by the town. Note: we cannot stop the transportation of fracking waste through the town.
 - Water Tower/land trade –Await feasibility & cost estimates from Leonard Engineering, Inc.
 - Notable Trees: Last 2 trees measured. Arnie to compile final list to send to Conn College

- Wild flower seeding at park – on hold until spring. Note: there have been two more vehicles that have driven through the park – but this has now been repaired.

New Business:

- Meeting with the WPCA
 - WPCA has not met with DEEP annually
 - Water testing has not been done and there is no baseline. The Lake Associations have not tested either. There was general agreement that testing should be done – but there is no coordination or funding for this. A plan needs to be developed. Joe Debrino (NS land alliance) has been trained as has Bill Ricker. 44 areas in the town are required to be monitored. Action: Juliet to determine how the testing will be done – cost and who will do it.
- Submitted budget for 2018-2019 fiscal year: \$2100
- 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 one or two projects
- From the 2013 Plan of Conservation and Development Goals and objectives
 - 1.9 – expand boundaries of the town village protection overlay. Action – meet with HS and P&Z if requested.
 - 3.4 – work with Eastern, Conn and their GIS programs to find students that might draw maps for us.
- For next meeting agenda: Identify properties that we would like to add to the map of future recreation or preservation – start process of working to acquire properties.
- Next Meeting: Commission Members to select which of our 2018 Goals they would like to contribute to (see next page).

Handouts: Goals & Objectives 2018, Aquifer map, C&R land map, Habitat newsletter

Correspondence: None

Adjournment: 7:52

CONSERVATION COMMISSION GOALS FOR 2018

- Develop the 6th annual 2019 Community Calendar
- Create an electronic interactive play board to assist the public in identifying all the municipal, state, and private organizations hiking trails in town. To be located in numerous venues to educate our citizens on all the trails available to them and their location.
- At the half way point in the 10-year cycle of the POCD, 1) update the “Existing Conservation and Recreation Lands” map (p. 9) identifying newly acquired properties by public and private organizations and 2) review & update the “Desired Areas for Future Recreation and Preservation” map (p.17) of properties we would like to acquire to add to the western, central and eastern greenway corridors.
- One of the Objectives/Strategies in the Action Plan of the POCD is to “Remap the aquifer protection area to better describe its actual boundaries and to include the Green Falls Aquifer.”
- To protect our underground water resources, we are drafting a no fracking ordinance, which will include a permanent ban on dumping of hazardous or polluted waste, within the town borders. Once approved, write the Conservation Commissions and the town governments of Westerly and Ashaway to do the same as both share the land above our aquifer.
- Continue to offer our assistance to BOS and newly reestablished WPCA should their analysis of the need for a water tower on state land behind the new fire station indicate a land swap offer for our acreage adjacent to Assekunk Swamp.
- Maintain “Pocket Park”.
- Complete tree identification of “Notable Trees of North Stonington” and submit to Conn College state-wide listings.