

**NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**February 17, 2022 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Old High School Media Center**  
**Regular Meeting**

Minutes

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Call to order: 6:04

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

Regrets: Mike Charnetski, Arnie Vleiks

Guests: Selectman Nicole Porter, Monica Dumont

Minutes of January Meeting: Correction: The minutes incorrectly listed the year as 2021.

Accepted as revised

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Old Business:

- Goals for 2022 - were reviewed. Motion made & seconded to accept. Voted: 5-0-0
- Land Acquisition Fund request of \$20,000 sent to the Board of Selectmen. - Bill
  - Still in budget but reduced to \$10,000
  - Currently the fund has \$73K
- Fire Fly Farm monitoring. No progress still with Attorney Callaghan although he has been in contact with the State Attorney General's office.
- Water testing at Hewitt Farm: Our Building Official offered his opinion that the froth seen at the Hewitt Dam was a natural occurring substance and the rust colored water was likely deteriorating buried metal and not a hazard to the river.
- Community Calendar sales: sold out. We have returned all proceeds to the town General Fund
- Historic Hiking Trail with Middle Schoolers Cancelled because of Covid. This will be picked up in the Spring.
- Budget – Sent to BOS 2/8/22. Unanimous support from BOS for full amount: \$2,175.
- Development of NoSto Bike Trail
  - Jim Russell has started work to develop an electronic version of the bike trail map. So far he has drafted where the enduro trail is located within town borders. Mountain bike trails and road bike trails to follow. Steve is actioned to work on this with Jim. Bill is actioned to contact Forest Ranger Mark Darin to determine the requirements to use the enduro trail (which passes through North Stonington).
  - Post-meeting update: Response from Mark Darin: No permits are required. The only rules are: 1) Bikes must be street legal, 2) registered with DMV with lights and plates, and 3) valid driver's license as they travel from trail to trail on roads. Not listed as a rule, but an understanding: Must stay on marked enduro trails.

- Letter with recommended revisions to Pocket Park abutter (mailed 1/25/22). – Bill
- Avalonia request for parking at Sheet property off Putker Rd. ~Bill
  - Two different parking areas are under consideration: One for a school bus turn around at town owned land and the town has agreed to support this. Issue now given to First Selectmen and president of Avalonia who are in contact. Gates will be removed and area to be brush hogged in the Spring.
  - Another parking area for 3-4 cars is needed as a platform for fishing for those with mobility limitations. The Conservation Commission supports this proposal asking Avalonia to submit a more detailed map of requested accessible trail and fishing platform to Nate Reichart for town action.
- CT Trails Day
  - CT Forest and Parks sponsors CT Trail Day on the first weekend of June every year (June 4 and 5 this year)
  - Avalonia has agreed to co-sponsor a hike this year with our Conservation Commission at the Tri-Town Preserve. Steve Colgan and Terri Eickel (Avalonia Director of Development and Programming) will be hosts/hike leaders. Terri will register the hike with CT Forests and Parks. Steve to invite members of Best Buddies CT to participate.
- Updated website
  - Bob Degoursey is now noted as the Vice Chair

New Business:

- Conservation Easement 5-year monitoring. None (9) CE's need update. Binders divided between CC members.
  - #18 done by Doug

- Continued review of Plan of Conservation & Recreation section of the 2013 POCD – deferred

Correspondence: none

Handouts: monitoring list, 2022 goals

Adjournment: Motion made & seconded to adjourn @ 7:16

Voted: 5-0-0

Submitted by Steve Colgan, CC Secretary.