

**NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Special Meeting @ Old Town Hall**  
**February 27th, 2019 @ 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:** 6:00pm

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

**Regrets:** Steve Colgan, Jason Mancini

**Citizen Comments:** None

**January minutes:** approved as written

**Ongoing Business:**

**Updates:**

1. Outstanding Trail Maintenance Needs – Pending need to do some trail maintenance, clearing downed trees at Stewart hill reserve. Agreement to postpone till weather is cooperative.
2. Pocket Park rototilling/wildflower seeding – Discussed need to wait till ground thaws sufficiently to till/seed.
3. Calendar Sales – Approximately 40 unsold calendars (of 125 printed) remain.
  - a. More ideas for 2020 calendar solicited – ongoing.
4. Conservation easement marker replacements/improvement progress:
  - a. CE boundary adjacent to Buon Appetito completed (Bob).
  - b. CE off Swantown Rd (Mashantucket property boundary) has been marked. (Bob)
  - c. Both easements on Chester Maine (cemetery access and west easement completed).
5. Newman property CE walk through to confirm CE border - completed (Steve).
6. Gas station / mini mart development plan review – Bill reported that the commission's concerns about preventing encroachment on the seasonal brook have been addressed in the site plan.

**New Business:**

1. School Steering committee membership request -
  - a) Bill presented Peter Nero's request for representatives of each of the town's commissions/boards to participate on the steering committee and solicited volunteer(s) to represent the conservation commission.
2. Winoker site walk (consult for removing trees for residential solar installation) – Commission members (Bill, Mike, Steve) evaluated proposed tree removal plan and found at least two of them to be dead or diseased. CC was comfortable with removal of the two dead/diseased trees but reserved recommendation on the remaining marked trees pending more accurate position of CE boundry.
3. Bill received a copy of the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild & Scenic Rivers Stewardship Plan donated to the CC as a resource for the commission.
4. Review of 2018 goals and establishing 2019 goals.  
2019 Goal Proposals Discussed Included:
  - a) Ongoing trail maintenance
  - b) Proposal to reach out to DEEP/ CFPA re: needed trail maintenance in state forest near Yawbux pond (fire road).

- c) Develop map of town trails for printing (trifold or other design) as a town resource for residents, education and outreach.
- d) Consider new venues for education/outreach – town fair, etc.
- e) Explore development of a farm & forest preservation plan.
- f) Workshop to evaluate google earth as a tool to improve monitoring of conservation easements.
- g) Consider identifying possible canoe/kayak access points to the Pawcatuck river.
- h) Update list of properties/areas for conservation/preservation that would be most valuable for commission POCD objectives.
- i) Investigate town trail mapping enhancements (e.g. GPS waypoint plotting accessible by phone app/GPS).
- j) Develop ideas for future grants (e.g. Aquarion Environmental Champions Grant) to serve the community and conservation goals.

Adjournment: 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted

Doug Farrand, Secretary pro tem