

NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 19, 2023 @ 6:00pm
Old High School Media Center
Special Meeting

Minutes

Call to order: 6:01 PM

Attendance:

Present: Bill Ricker, Bob Degoursey, Steve Colgan, Arnie Vlieks, Doug Farrand (a quorum being present).

Regrets: Jason Mancini

Guest(s): Juliet Hodge (POCD coordinator), Monica Dumont

Minutes of March, 2023 meeting: accepted with revision mentioned below

Citizen Comments: none

Old Business:

- Bike trail map for discussion and revision. – Steve
- Steve – *Minutes addition:* we should capture the value of the lumber removed from the conservation easement as part of the violation on Swantown road per discussion from the March mtg. Commission agreed to amend meeting minutes to include this omission.
- Bike trail map for discussion and revision. – Steve- provided updated map and opened discussion for any additional changes.
- Status of DEEP grant. – Bill No notification of application at this stage.
- The PRCL map was again reviewed with one additional property along the Green Falls River added. Commissioners were asked to review the rationale (handout given) for each parcel's inclusion.
- Update: Commissioners were asked to choose a trail to hike and clear downed branches for spring cleanup. Downed trees should be reported back for chain sawing and removal.
 - Hangman Hill Preserve: Degoursey - pending
 - Steward Hill Preserve: Vlieks - pending
 - Billing Lake Trail: Colgan - pending
 - Assekonk Borderlands: Ricker - completed
 - Wright Road Preserve: Doug - pending
- Earth Day planning: Ricker contacted Supt. Hopkins. A flyer went home with kids for this **Saturday's, April 22** Road cleanup. Colgan & Mancini had a Facebook inclusion to towns people. Each of us needs to choose a road for ourselves.
 - Ricker/Vlieks: Upper Wyassup Rd & Murphy Rd
 - Farrand: Old Mystic Rd from Rte 2 to Wintechog & Holly Lane
 - Degoursey: Tom Wheeler Rd
 - Colgan: Billings Rd and environs

New Business:

- Status of CE intrusions – Bill
- Motion to capture the value of the lumber removed from the conservation easement as part of the violation on Swantown road per discussion from the March mtg. Commission agreed to amend meeting minutes to include this omission. Voted 5-0-0
Substantial additional violations have since been identified. Extensive timber cutting has occurred elsewhere throughout the conservation easement since the last monitoring event without explicit approval from the town.
- Yannatos Preserve (Avalonia Land Trust) – Map of Yannatos preserve passed out with rough outline of proposed changes to the property by Avalonia. Proposal to expand access to the property by creating a small parking area and build a universal access fishing platform on Green Falls River was discussed.
- Pocket Park work day & mowing schedule. Suggestion to do no mowing in May due to pollinator cycle. Discuss a June workday at the next commission meeting.
- Monica Dumont vetting for conservation vacancy. Discussion of roles/responsibility as well as vacancies on the conservation commission. This was followed by a separate discussion to select a candidate to fill the vacancy and recommend them to the board of selectmen.
As both candidates appear to be equally interested and experienced, with a coin toss, Monica was selected with Josh on hold for first opening

Adjournment: 8:08PM vote: 5/0/0

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Farrand, Secretary