

NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
April 15, 2021 @ 6pm via ZOOM Technology
Special Meeting

Minutes

Meeting Called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Attendance: Bill Ricker, Steve Colgan, Bob DeGoursey, Doug Farrand, Arnie Vlieks, Mike Charnetski,

Regrets: Jason Mancini

Guests: Madeline Jeffery, Brian Rathbun, Vince Adolny, Ed Learned

Staff: Juliet Hodge

Citizen Comments: none

March Minutes: Approved as written

Approval given to add "Town email" to our agenda.

Old Business:

Reports on

- April 14th ZOOM meeting with Tri-town representatives – Bill
 - Stonington, Westerly and North Stonington initially were interested in a kayak put-in
 - The group met yesterday. A representative from Hopkinton has now joined this group.
 - It is envisioned that this kayak trail will traverse from Hopkinton's Potter Hill Dam potentially all the way to Napatree point. This is a work in progress
 - Lauren Bonatatis will now host this group. She is a natural resource specialist from our National Park Service
- Kayak/canoe trail access – Bill
 - Keith Gove (Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation) has been delayed in providing us a map that will show where "put-in" and parking spots on Mashantucket property could be located. Once they respond, we will go to the BOS, followed by a review from our town attorney for approval before any further action.
- Fire Fly Farm LLC modifications – Bill
 - A memo was submitted to the BOS along with our recommendations of modifications to the existing Attorney General decree requesting their action. Those modifications have been signed by the principals of Fire Fly Farm and approved by our Commission. This will be discussed at the BOS meeting on April 27th review. After review by our town attorney the next step will be to appeal to the Attorney General.
- Calendar theme responses – Bill
 - 13 letters were sent out to farms looking for their thoughts on our 2022 calendar theme of Farms and their Animals.
 - Positive responses were received from 6 so far. This needs to be wrapped up by August.

- Historic Trail modifications – Steve
 - Several modifications were suggested to be forwarded to Jim Russell.

New Business:

Solar panels

- Bill and Mike joined a group of about 15 North Stonington officials and neighboring residents with representatives from the solar company. We had previously voiced our concern about the potential impact to stone walls, wetlands, forest clear cutting, aquifer disturbance and habitat destruction.
- There is a more suitable location of panels from the northern portion of the land to a southern part of the property, previously known as the Romanela property. Our concerns were suggested to be included in a letter to the siting counsel by Juliet Hodge. This change would preserve the forested portion of the property north of Providence-New London Turnpike.

Town Emails for CC member correspondences

- CC members need to use town email accounts to avoid vulnerability to FOI requests. Members are asked to consult with Jim Russell for assistance and to check this new email site for our communications.

Correspondence: None

Adjournment: 7:02 p.m.

Submitted by Steve Colgan, CC Secretary.