

**North Stonington Conservation Commission Meeting
August 26, 2021 @ 6:00 pm
Old High School Media Center
Special Meeting/Workshop**

Minutes

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm.

In attendance: W. Ricker, A Vlieks, R. Degoursey (recording secretary)

Note: Due to a lack of a quorum this meeting was held as a workshop.

Minutes of the June meeting: Noted but not voted on.

Citizen Comments: None.

Old Business:

-No responses yet received from the Attorney General on the monitoring revision request for Firefly Farms.

-Kayak/Canoe launch site has been approved by both the Town and the MPTN. Launch site work to prepare the Boombridge Road access location has been completed.

-Pocket Park was fertilized this spring and continues to be maintained. Replacement of the arborvitae destroyed by a reckless motorist was discussed. A suggestion was made to replace the arborvitae with a rosebud tree. It was decided to table the issue pending further review. Funds remain available in that account.

-Private CE signs on lower Chester Main Bridle Trail: it was decided to complete this task during colder weather to minimize contact with ticks and after leaf fall.

-Annual Calendar material has been assembled and is the layout stage.

New Business:

-Quad Town Kayak/Canoe trail has been completed and 500 brochures have been printed. However, the Commission just received a negative phone call from Kassi Donnelly, River Coordinator of the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association(WPWA). She stated persons, who were unidentified in the call, objected to statements in the brochure about life jacket requirements and the description of rapids being "novice class II" in the brochure. There was additional concern about using the Potter Mill launch site in Hopkinton as a put-in location. There was also concern about the river conditions at the Stillman Ave. site (which have been corrected). The Chairman was asked to request of Kassi Donnelly that person(s) voicing concerns can contact him directly including anyone on the Hopkinton Town Council to determine whether the Town wishes to be removed from the brochure.

It was noted that signage has been installed at the Boombridge Road site and that the Westerly Sun ran an article about the Kayak/Canoe Trail on August 17 with somewhat confusing statements about a grand opening ceremony on September 19. Steve Fagan from the New London Day has not yet responded to the Commission's inquiry.

Hewitt Farm water: Ricker was notified by two hikers that an unidentified frothy material has been seen below the Hewitt Farm dam. The Commission asked for an email be sent to the Board of Selectman and a cc to WPWA sharing this concern and asking for immediate water testing.

Correspondence: None

Wildlife magazines were re-distributed amongst members.

Meeting(workshop) adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted: R. Degoursey, Secretary pro tem