

NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting via ZOOM @ 6:00pm
September 24, 2020

Minutes

Meeting convened via ZOOM @ 6:07 pm

Present: Bill Ricker, Arnie Vlieks, Steve Colgan, Bob Degoursey, Doug Farrand, Mike Charnetski,
Jason Mancini All commissioners present

Regrets: none

Staff: Juliet Hodge

Citizen comments: none

Approval of July minutes: approved as written

Old Business:

- Calendar sales – currently we have sold about 20 of the 100 ordered.
- Pocket Park work – The pocket park which currently contains only woodies and grasses was upgraded and now includes an assortment of perennials. A request for donations was made on the NoSto Green Thumb Facebook page and a number of residents contributed. More than 100 bulbs were planted (Ricker, Colgan, Vlieks, Degoursey) along with approximately 40 perennial plantings. The new additions included daffodils, narcissus, lambs ear, bee balm, rudbeckia, iris, coreopsis, rose campion, echinacea, garden phlox, false sunflower, chives, cat mind and columbine. These were selected because they are largely drought tolerant, deer resistant, and sun tolerant. They also will add color throughout the spring and summer months. The reception on Facebook and by those who pass by has all been positive. Since planting, they have been watered 3 times (Colgan, Degoursey) and have had a good rain. Reimbursements have been submitted for bulbs & loam
- Wintechog Hill trail - Costs for the map & stanchion have already submitted by Bill. A parking area at the trail head on Wrights road has been completed and blazing of the trails are also done. Pictures and a summary were posted in the NoSto news push last Friday.
- Boombridge Road progress - We are still looking for a 20 foot right of way. Kate Rotella will help us secure permission to use the right of way from the Mashantuckets. Jason will also contact Rodney Butler.
- 100 fir trees were not ordered because NoSto Fest was cancelled.

New Business:

- Year-end report (through June 2020) needs to be written. Bill to cover.
- North Stonington Quarterly article (sent scan via email 9/21)
- Our 2022 calendar theme. We should consider identifying several topics so we don't need to rush to get pictures at year end. After a good discussion, the consensus was to have 12 Farms with their favorite animal featured each month. We will include a blurb about each farm. Sue Starr also will be contacted to see if she would like to contribute some farm-related artwork.
- Should we contact landowners again for desired property donations (see 2013 POCD)? 24 property owners were previously contacted and we decided that it would be prudent to send out a reminder indicating that we are still looking for acquisitions. Note that the POCD needs to be updated shortly and Juliet mentioned that it should include videos if possible. The CC is actioned to think about making short videos when in the field.
 - Donations to several organizations were discussed and Juliet mentioned that these may not always be appropriate. She did note that membership dues to conservation-related organizations generally are appropriate. Organizations that were discussed included the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed, CT Forest and Park Association and CACIWC (CT Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commission). \$300 was proposed collectively to donate to these organizations and Juliet will determine if this would be appropriate.
 - Fire Fly Farm LLC judgement – Bill suggested that we look into modifying the monitoring portion of the agreement to be more flexible (e.g. observe the CE via google earth (or similar technology) no more than every 5 years (consistent with monitoring standards the way other open space CEs are monitored in Connecticut). Bill has secured initial agreement with the property owner. This would need agreement from the Attorney General. Bill was actioned to proposed specific changes and distribute them to CC members for their review.
- Election of officers in November – be thinking

Handouts: Quarterly article via scan, Wildlife Magazine

Adjournment: 7:07 p.m.

Submitted by Steve Colgan, CC Secretary.