

NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting via ZOOM
January 28 @ 6:00 pm

Minutes

Mission: For the development, conservation, supervision and regulation of natural and historic resources, including water resources, within its territorial limits.

Meeting convened via ZOOM at 6:00 p.m.

- Note: at the January 28th meeting, the call was hacked and we needed to terminate the meeting due to hackers from unknown persons. We agreed to meet later and the meeting continued the next day at 1:00 p.m. as a workshop.

Present: Bill Ricker, Steve Colgan, Bob Degoursey, Arnie Vlieks, Doug Farrand, Jason Mancini

Regrets: Mike Charnetski,

Staff: Juliet Hodge

Guests: Bob Fleury

Citizen comments: Shawn Murphy: Subject: waste associated with natural gas and oil extraction. In 2018, an ordinance to exclude fracking waste from out of town was adopted. According to Mr. Murphy, statements are needed from vendors to state that no fracking waste was in their product. Murphy opines that since this has been in place (Oct 2018) – no statements have been signed by contractors and this appears to be unenforceable. He adds the first selectmen should enforce this. A request was made by Mr. Murphy to look at this ordinance again and look at CCM's regulations. Murphy agreed to forward CCM document to the CC Chairman Action: This will be addressed by the commission and we will contact the BOS to determine a path forward.

November minutes: Accepted as written.

Old Business:

- Calendar sales – Bill
 - We are currently sold out. \$670 has been returned to the town and \$90 more to be turned in. Several were given out pro bono to potential businesses and the library.
- Boombridge Road river trail access.
 - A 32-inch guardrail was put in where we wanted to secure an access point. There already is a trail on the Westerly side. Land owner, Patrick Moran was contacted and is not going to allow a right of way. The Westerly CC was looking into access on the down river side of the bridge on private conservation property Alternate plan: Mike Urgo contacted Rodney Butler (Chair of Mashantucket Tribal Counsel) to get together with a representative of the MPTN to determine an alternate access.
- Our 2022 calendar theme: "Farmers and Their Animals" Include 12-13 farms with their favorite animal featured each month. *
- A draft of letter to farmers was reviewed and approved by the CC. This will be sent out by Bill
 - Several farmers appear enthusiastic based on preliminary conversations.

- Following up on the 2013 POCD, 2nd letter was sent out to 14 of the viable 26 landowners on land preservation options.
 - This detailed how they could protect their land if they chose to with copies of new CT legislation included .
- Trail maps: 50 more copied for library
 - Recommended a copy be sent to several towns upon request.

Action: Bill to send copies to other Conservation Commissions in neighboring towns.
- Vote on budget: copy sent via email VOTED: 6-0-0

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association membership approved
- Update: Fire Fly Farm LLC modification of Atty Gen decision.
 - Van Brown will return to North Stonington soon and Dugan Brown has agreed to provide feedback on our proposal.
- BOS meeting public comment re: excessive trails
 - It was noted one citizen objected to putting trails on public lands. Discussion countered that scores of citizens have taken more than 100 trail maps made available to them and are enjoying hiking the trails.

NOTE: At this point the posted meeting summarily and immediately ended due to outside obscene hackers and reconvened as a Workshop at 1:00pm Friday January 29, 2021 via ZOOM

New Business:

- New trail location – Steve
 - A proposal was made to develop 2 trails in town: One would be similar to the Boston Freedom Trail that takes hikers past historical and other points of interest. This might focus on the Village and surrounding properties (within a roughly one-mile radius). The second would have a similar theme but would cover a larger area and be a bike trail.
 - The CC decided to take this on with the village trail first (perhaps we could call it the Milltown Trail). Suggested partners for this may include the Historical Society, the Library and the Cemetery Commission. Jason mentioned that the CT Humanities Council could help us with this as well. They are developing a “Conn-Tours” app site for this sort of thing across Connecticut. The CC was actioned to develop a list of points of interest that could be included in the Village trail. It was thought that 10-25 points of interest could be included. The final product would include a brief blurb about each point of interest.
- McIntosh property acquisition by U.S. Wildlife: Great Thicket – Bob Fleury email
 - This property was described in the current edition of CT Wildlife magazine.
 - This connects the green corridor from Green Fall river to the Ann Renehan property
 - This may be an area where additional trails can be established.
- What is our role for the Puttker road acquisition? – Bob
 - Since we are an advisory group, if requested, we could support land acquisition activities in a number of different ways.

Handouts: Wildlife magazine: Arnie, to give two to Bob. Bill give one to Arnie

Adjournment: Friday, January 29th, 1:45 p.m.

Steve Colgan, CC Secretary

