

NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**June 24, 2021 @ 6:00 pm
Media Center in Old High School
Regular Meeting**

Agenda

Call to order:

Attendance:

Minutes of May ZOOM meeting:

Citizen Comments:

Old Business:

- Year-end report (see attached)
- Progress on monitoring revision request for Fire Fly LLC
- Progress on kayak launch site approval
- Signage for launch area: Ames Finish Signs & Designs, Ashaway, RI
- Pocket Park: tree replacement, mowing & fertilizing
- Private CE signs on lower Chester Main Bridle Trail
- Calendar progress

New Business:

- Scheduling work session at launch site when approved
- Quarterly news article request (see attached)
- Town-wide Trail Map and Historic Trail Map brochure replacements
- July CC meeting revision
 - Options: Special meeting August 15 or 29, cancel, Vice chair hold meeting
 - Note: No meeting in August anyway

Correspondence: Wildlife Magazine(s), ECCDD Outlook quarterly edition

Adjournment:

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Efforts to continue conservation initiatives have not been held back by the need to isolate and maintain social distancing during the pandemic. Although meetings have been held monthly via ZOOM, much work has been handled either by phone, email or individually.

The completion of Wintechog Hill Preserve trail adds to the 5 other hiking trails in town. There has been considerable use of the trails during the past year for folks to get out while still isolating.

Seeing the heavy use of our forest trails, during the winter we did extensive research in developing an "Historic Hiking Trail". This trail includes walking from Trolley Lane down our Main Street identifying the many historic buildings and features, up through Hewitt Farm and the 1750 Gallup House, the Bicentennial trail & Old Plains Cemetery, out to "Devil's Foot Rock" and back to town center. Brochure maps of all our trails are available free at the library, town hall and Chelsea-Groton Bank.

One of our missions is to educate the public in conservation efforts. We produced and had printed the 9th annual "North Stonington Community Calendar" with nearly all the money for printing and production being returned to the town's general fund.

A major initiative, to develop a "Quad-Town Kayak/Canoe Trail" with 3 other towns remains on hold until we receive permission to create a launch site off Boombridge Road. Once received we will have a trail from Potters Hill Dam in Hopkinton to Boombridge, to Westerly sites and on to Donahue Park in Stonington.

The Pocket Park continues to be improved and maintained. Over 100 new perennial flowers were planted last fall showing a new array of colors this spring. Two vehicles have lost control coming north on Rte. 49 and plowed through the park. We have received phone calls and a letter of appreciation from the public thanking us for our work. "Every spring we wait for the flowers to bloom as we pass the area daily. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

Lastly, our full complement of 5 regular and 2 alternate commissioners have been together now for several years working tirelessly to improve the lifestyle the public asked of the town through the POCD and monitoring issues which may compromise the environment.

~Bill Ricker, Chair