

**Town Of Thompson**  
**Conservation Commission**  
815 Riverside Drive, PO Box 899  
North Grosvenordale, Connecticut 06255

MINUTES: MARCH 16, 2015

TOWN HALL 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

p. 1 of 2

Vice-Chairman Norma O'Leary called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Members present: Norma O'Leary, Carol Smith, Ron Tillen and Kathy Mitchell.

Guests present: Hap Coman.

Staff present: Carolyn Werge and Audrey Witkowski.

*Approval of Minutes*

1. **Ron Tillen moved and Carol Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2015 meeting as presented; the motion carried.**

*Financial Matters*

1. As of February 26, 2015, 62.4% of the budget has been used.

*Correspondence*

- a. Members received via email:
  - 1) Minutes: Conservation Commission, January 20, 2015.
  - 2) Information on the Farm, Forest and Natural Resources Expo, Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Willington Public Library.
- b. Incoming Mail:
  - 1) The winter 2015 edition of The Habitat, a newsletter from the Connecticut Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc.
  - 2) The bylaws of the Conservation Commission to be distributed.
  - 3) Information on the 2015 Aquarion Environmental Champion Awards program, dated 23 February 2015.
- c. Outgoing Mail:
- d. Incoming Mail via email:
  - 1) A request from the Wetlands Agent for the Conservation Commissions input on the Wetlands Declaratory Ruling for application DEC15005 of the Thompson Trails Committee, dated 10 February 2015.
- e. Outgoing Mail via email:
  - 1) A letter to the Editor of the Villager about the availability of Blue Bird Nest Boxes, dated 21 January 2015.

*Officer and Committee Reports*

1. Conservation Officer Report
  - a. New Requests
    - 1) The Conservation Commissions input was requested regarding a Declaratory Ruling Application #DEC15005 of the Thompson Trails Committee. The consensus of the Commission was to suggest that the fresh cut areas be top dressed with coarse wood chips to provide firm footing on the dirt path, particularly after rain events.
  - b. Old Requests: None.
  - c. As of October 1, 2014, new legislation in section 19a-308 regarding the liability of volunteers helping with maintenance work in cemeteries states no municipality or employee, officer or agent of a municipality shall be civilly or criminally liable for undertaking the care and maintenance of a burial ground or cemetery. Carolyn Werge will confirm this with the first selectman.
  - d. Selectman Paul Lenky spoke with Bill St. Onge about moving forward with preparing the Conservation Easements for the five open space parcels acquired in recent years.
  - e. The Conservation Commission Ordinance is supposed to move forward to a Town Meeting.

- f. A Town Meeting has not been scheduled in regards to the Land donation in East Thompson.
  - g. Cemeteries Project:
    - 1) Carolyn Werge presented the hard copy of the Cemeteries Inventory at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and delivered a copy to the library.
    - 2) Joe Lindley has sent a database file of his work alphabetizing the gravestone inscriptions from the Hale Collection of the entire town and assigning a cemetery code to each name.
    - 3) Another law that was put into effect October 1, 2014 found in section 19a-308b establishes an account municipalities are able to apply for to be used on neglected cemeteries.
  - h. The letter to the Editor was published in the Thompson Villager regarding the Bluebird Nest Box Project. So far 28 nest boxes have been distributed.
  - i. Carolyn Werge digitized the boundaries of the Tamler Property, Wyndham Land Trust's newest acquisition, and added it to the map of all the Wyndham Land Trust property conserved in the town.
2. Other

*Old Business*

- 1. Update on previous Conservation reviews: None.
- 2. Blue Bird houses: None.
- 3. Fabyan Property with "Honor Roll" marker: None.

*New Business*

- 1. Norma O'Leary suggested her nephew with access to a boom truck would be willing to cut back tree limbs at the Carpenter Cemetery and Bates Cemetery. Carolyn Werge will speak to Selectman Lenky about this.
- 2. Ron Tillen was interested in visiting the Lewis Cemetery in Rhode Island.

*Citizens' Comments*

- 1. Hap Coman mentioned more extensive tree cutting that is necessary in a few cemeteries in town. He also stated that branches hanging over stone walls are the property of the cemetery and do not need permission to be cut back.

*Members' Forum*

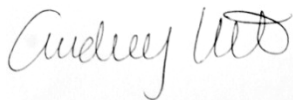
- 1. Ron Tillen asked if any barns had collapsed during the winter.
- 2. Ron Tillen mentioned a bill would be coming up that would allow the transfer of state owned land to municipalities.
- 3. Kathy Mitchell asked for the advice of the commission regarding the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

*Announcements**Future Meeting*

- 1. The next meeting will be held Monday, April 20, 2015 at 7 PM in the Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room.

*Adjournment*

- 1. Vice-Chairman O'Leary adjourned the meeting at 8:16 PM.



Audrey Witkowski  
Recording Secretary