

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

MINUTES: MARCH 21, 2016
TOWN HALL 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

p. 1 of 2

Chairman Phil Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Members present: Phil Thomas, Norma O'Leary, Ron Tillen, Carol Smith and Bernie Davis.

Staff present: Audrey Witkowski and Carolyn Werge.

Approval of Minutes

1. **Norma O'Leary moved and Bernie Davis seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2016 meeting as presented; the motion carried.**

Financial Matters

1. As of February 26th, 61% of the budget has been used.

Correspondence

- a. Members received via email:
 - 1) Minutes: Conservation Commission, February 16, 2016.
- b. Incoming Mail:
 - 1) The Board of Selectmen approved Ron Tillen's reappointment, 2 March 2016.
 - 2) The New England District US Army Corps of Engineers are proposing to replace and revise the statewide Connecticut General Permit, 8 March 2016.
- c. Outgoing Mail:
 - 1) Phil Thomas requested that the Selectmen approve the Conservation Commission's website as an official budget line item, 24 February 2016.
- d. Incoming Mail via email:
 - 1) A reminder that the WCCC Meeting is on March 30, 2016.
- e. Outgoing Mail via email: None.

Officer and Committee Reports

1. Conservation Officer Report
 - a. New Requests: None.
 - b. Old Requests: None.
 - c. Updates:
 - 1) The letter the Conservation Commission sent to the Selectmen was received and considered during the budget process. Though the Commission has not received a formal response, Carolyn Werge spoke with Ken Beausoleil, First Selectman, who said the funds had been left in the budget for 2016/2017.
 - 2) Carolyn Werge received two calls recently regarding possible cemetery sites. Norma O'Leary and Carolyn Werge visited the two sites. The site on North Grosvenordale Pond looks like it may be a very old cemetery. The other site off of Spicer Road they felt did not look like a cemetery. Bernie Davis believes it is the remnants of a corn crib. Carolyn Werge will follow up the the State Archaeologist to see if he will make a site visit and give his opinion.
 - 3) Carolyn Werge has completed the updates to the Conservation Easement map and the list. There is a discrepancy regarding the acreage of CE #34. Carolyn Werge asked the assessor to review her figures and to consult with the Wyndham Land Trust.
 - 4) A letter was sent to the editor announcing the availability of bluebird nest boxes. All 15 were given away and 4 people could not be accommodated. They are on the list for the next batch of boxes.
2. Other

Old Business

1. Update on previous Conservation reviews: No update.
2. Blue Bird houses: No update.
3. Fabyan Property with "Honor Roll" marker: No update.

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March 21, 2016

P. 1 of 2

New Business

1. Bernie Davis moved and Ron Tillen seconded the motion to nominate Phil Thomas as Chairman and Norma O'Leary as Vice Chairman. All in favor; the motion carried.
2. Bernie Davis moved and Ron Tillen seconded the motion to nominate Carol Smith as treasurer. All in favor; the motion carried.

Citizens' Comments

Members' Forum

1. Norma O'Leary brought up the Town Planner for the Town of Putnam being let go. The Commission discussed the importance of the Town of Thompson Town Planner and they would like to know if anything like this might happen in Thompson. If it does, Norma O'Leary felt the Commission needs to support and argue in favor of the position.
2. Ron Tillen attended the Land Conservation Conference workshops and reported on a lecture about acquisition of property and the importance of the board or commission doing a site walk before taking on the land. Ron Tillen asked about the 25 acre parcel on Five Mile River that was turned down by the Wyndham Land Trust. Ron Tillen would like to do a site walk should the property be offered to the town.
3. Ron Tillen also reported on the use of drones to survey town properties. Some properties are inaccessible for site walks and the use of a drone could make this possible. Phil Thomas asked if there were regulatory factors for drone usage in the town.
4. Norma O'Leary asked when a Plan of Conservation and Development needs to be completed. Carolyn Werge said the Planning and Zoning Commission does it and it is not due until 2020.

Announcements

Future Meeting

1. The next meeting will be held Monday, April 18, 2016 at 7 PM in the Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Adjournment

1. Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Audrey Witkowski
Recording Secretary