



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Conservation
Commission

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, 2021, 7 PM
Merrill Seney Room at the THOMPSON TOWN HALL
hybrid meeting via ZOOM:

- 1) Call to Order
Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Philip Thomas at 7:01 PM.
Present: Philip Thomas, Norma O'Leary, Carol Smith, Judy Rondeau, Peter Cummins
Staff: Dan Malo (Conservation Agent), Heather Gauthier-Bourgeois (Recording Secretary)
Guests: Amy St. Onge (First Selectman)
- 2) Approval of Minutes
Members received the October 18, 2021 meeting minutes via email:
Judy Rondeau moved and Carol Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the October 18, 2021 meeting as presented. All in favor. The motion carried.
- 3) Financial Matters
Budget was not discussed as the financial department was unavailable that day.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a. Members received via email:
 - Minutes of the Conservation Commission, October 18, 2021
 - 1st draft of Subdivision Regulation Revisions via Town Planner
 - b. Incoming Mail:
 - CT Audubon Society, Conservation News, Fall 2021
 - CT Audubon Society, Northeast Corner Programs, Fall 2021
 - c. Incoming Mail via email:
 - Emails from recipients of bluebird nesting boxes
 - Correspondence with Mike Dorsey, Club 2087
 - Map inquiries from town residents
 - d. Outgoing Mail: None
 - e. Outgoing Mail via email: None
- 5) Officer and Committee Reports
 - a. Conservation Officer Report (Dan Malo)
 - Recording Secretary - Heather Gauthier-Bourgeois, was hired.
 - Bluebird Nesting Boxes – No new installation pictures. Currently there are (6) residents who are requesting a total of (8) boxes. We have (2) boxes ready to go.
 - MS4 Compliance – This is to be reviewed with the Town Planner, Wetlands Agent, First Selectman, and department of Public Works. Will provide more information/update at a later date.
 - Verio Website – In the process of canceling auto renewal. We did remove the towns billing information and will watch for any charges. Hopefully this will auto-terminate due to no billing information.
 - Stewardship Ideas – Mike Dorsey of Club 2087 has invited Conservation Commission

members to the monthly meeting (3rd Thursday of every month, Drafter's Backroom) to discuss ideas about sustainability of the French River and various projects. Dan has reached out to Marianapolis Prep to see if their science department would be interested in initiating student volunteer projects.

- MapGeo Inquires – Residents of Thompson have addressed concerns about the lack of points-of-interest details on the MapGeo GIS. The street view seems to be accurate, but that can only be found in certain parts of town while other parts of town feature decade old photographs. The state is planning a flyover in Spring 2022, this will hopefully provide some updated information. Dan Malo will reach out to the Assessor's office and MapGeo about updates to the GIS with street views.
- Subdivision Regulation Revisions – All commission members were emailed a copy and provided a printed copy at tonight's meeting. The draft should be reviewed, and all comments, suggestion or notes should be sent to Dan Malo. He will compile all responses and they will be discussed at the next meeting. Wetlands Agent Marla Butts (reported by Dan Malo) will have a few comments regarding lot sizes and slopes. The deadline for the comment period is January 31, 2022.
- West Thompson Lake Master Plan – This was just received in the mail today, along with other land use commissions receiving the same letter. The letter advised that the updates were administrative in nature with no management, facilities, or land classification changes. Dan Malo has not had time to review the letter or the proposal. There is a 30-day window for the town to express comments.

b. Other

- Wetlands – There have been several wetlands complaints that had to be dealt with in the absence of Marla Butts.
- Conservation Easements – Dan Malo will be reviewing town conservation easements and preparing letters to property owners. He will start with the easier properties such as those owned by the town.

6) Old Business

a. Update on previous Conservation reviews – no reviews

b. Bluebird nesting boxes – previously discussed

c. Fabyan Property with "Honor Roll" marker (Philip Thomas)

No progress. Discussion regarding the location and option of moving the marker. There has not been much background work to make a decision. (Norma O'Leary). The marker host 44 names and has been at the Fabyan Road site since WWII. The current owners of the property are taking care of the marker and have refused monetary donations for doing this. For years the neighbors have cared for the marker without town help (Philip Thomas). Philip Thomas with the assistance of Peter Cummins will visit the property owners and discuss the options for the marker by either keeping it in place or moving it to another location.

d. Neglected Cemetery Grant (Norma O'Leary)

Norma O'Leary is filling out the required reimbursement forms for the Wilsonville Cemetery. Two 'draws' on the grant funds are allowed. This will be the first draw of the grant cycle. There are about 40 more headstone to be fixed, and an overhanging tree on the neighboring property that should be trimmed back. There is a gentleman that is doing community service hours at this site. He has purchased his own leaf blower to do the work and has over 50 hours of community service. He is working with Thompson Together to see if a community service extension could be requested. He takes pride in doing this work for the community. The project is anticipated to be complete Summer 2022. Norma O'Leary is working with the Town Planner to see if there are more grants to apply for since other cemeteries in town could use some attention. Bates Cemetery in Bonnette Acres was discussed as there are some pine

trees that are threatening to fall on headstones.

7) New Business – previously discussed

8) Citizens' Comments – none

9) Members' Forum

Philip Thomas – Happy Thanksgiving.

Norma O'Leary – Should we look at advertising for commission vacancies? The Commission currently has 5 members, with two vacancies. (Amy St. Onge) Applications to volunteer on any commission is available on the website, they can be filled out and returned to her office. The application is sent to the commission, so they are aware and final election is through the Board of Selectman.

Norma O'Leary – We should send a thank you letter to Bernie Davis for all his work with the commission and the various projects he has done for us. We will welcome him back at any time. Dan and Heather will draft a letter for the next meeting so that all members can sign.

10) Announcements:

Bernie Davis has submitted his resignation today.

11) Future Meeting is Monday, December 20, 2021 at 7 PM

12) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Philip Thomas at 7:50 PM.

View the Zoom Recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/GP9fEYtKOpM-M-I9Wh6pb1B4TPJJzic0ZyiLeHauZjBp61jZOy5zsYE_HPOnzEXme.00-c4loh8SzmxEk

Passcode: 1!\$&V&RB

Submitted 11/18/2021

Heather J. Gauthier-Bourgeois

Recording Secretary

*** These minutes have not yet been approved by the Conservation Commission. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.*