



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Conservation
Commission

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TUESDAY, February 22, 2022

Merrill Seney Room at the THOMPSON TOWN HALL

Hybrid meeting via ZOOM:

1. Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order by Norma O'Leary at 7:22 PM.

Present: Norma O'Leary, Carol Smith, Peter Cummins, Judy Rondeau

Staff: Dan Malo (Conservation Agent), Heather Gauthier (Recording Secretary)

Guests: Amy St. Onge (First Selectman)

2. Approval of Minutes - December 20, 2021 **Minutes are not approved

N. O'Leary commented on the meeting minutes under "Old Business (B)" - Wilsonville cemetery gravestone repair resume in the spring. Regarding the community service; Add "at the Wilsonville Cemetery and Jacobs Cemetery Stone Wall."

3. Financial Matters (to be mailed to members)

- Yearly Budget Review
- Orla, previous finance director, has moved on to another town. Financial matters are preliminary available through "Clear Gov"
- There is a new format for budgets on "Clear Gov"

4. Correspondence (D. Malo will mail out communication to members)

a. Members received via email:

- Minutes of the Conservation Commission, December 20, 2021

b. Incoming Mail: None

- CT Wildlife Magazine - November/December 2021
- CT Audubon Society Membership Request
- CT Land Conservation Conference Annual Request
- T-Mobile Siting Council sub-petition notification - 720 Quinebaug Road

c. Incoming Mail via email:

- Quite a few dumping complaints coming through the comment's forum. Conservation agent in Dudley - Property last on right as leaving CT/MA line on Route 12; approximately at 192 Scofield Ave. Reardon Road is the most mentioned by complaint.

d. Outgoing Mail via email:

- Comments to CT Siting Council, re: 720 Quinebaug Road -

5. Conservation Officer Report (Dan Malo)

- Bluebird Nesting Boxes - No new correspondence. Bernie has dropped off 20 more boxes, there is a waiting listing for 10 of those boxes. We should advertise to get these out, last advertisement was in 2020. There is some information in the Selectmen's report coming out soon.
- MS4 Compliance - Inter-departmental effort which involves the selectman office, Town Planner, Wetlands Agent, and department of Public Works. There are no updates to report. Marla Butts, Wetlands Agent, has suggested that we come up with

a 2-year timeline.

- Subdivision Regulation Revisions – Marla Butts produced a comparison copy she made. She was able to identify some substantial changes for the regulation. Electronic copies were provided to all commission members. Draft subdivision regulations subcommittee meetings are tentatively scheduled for 2/17, 2/23 & 3/2 from 7-9pm.
- Grant Seeking – Dan Malo is researching other opportunities for grants in the Conservation, Environmental and Recreation areas. Most grants are due in the fall. D. Malo is hoping to have a fact sheet for all the grants available at the next meeting.
- Annual Giving – CT Audubon Society and Connecticut Land Conservation Council both mailed their annual report as well as request for donations. Prior giving to the CT Audubon Society as the senior level of \$28 per years; the membership is due to expire 2/28/2022. The CT Land Conservation Council was donated \$35 in previous year for their membership. D. Malo advised that both memberships are good to have and should be renewed.
- Office 365 – The Town has migrated to the cloud Microsoft Office 365. Most issues have been worked out and D. Malo is able to access work emails from home.
- Selectman's Update – The First Selectman is requested a blurb from all departments to have into her February Selectman Update. Information regarding the Wilsonville cemeteries, bluebird boxes and commission vacancies were placed in the Conservation Commission section.
- Connecticut Wildlife Magazine – Copy for November/December has been received. Digital copy link: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Connecticut-Wildlife-Magazine#archive>
- Inland Wetland Training Available – DEEP is providing the Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency Comprehensive Training Program online for free. It explores the creation of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act, important procedures for conducting agency business, stream crossing guidelines, habitat restoration, and map and site plan reading.
- Updated Turntable MOU & Map for Butlers – regarding Train Wreck Park, D. Malo created a facsimile map and another memorandum of understanding with a map of the property at 343 Sand Dam Road. The town planner has received a grant to move forward with the work at the Train Wreck Park.
- Map Request – Charlie Obert with EDC commission is interested in airline trail linkages between Pomfret and Thompson for a mountain biking route for April. Town Planner has asked D. Malo to do a map for the Downtown Mill Redevelopment District.
- GIS Mapping Request – Several requests have come in. D. Malo is still learning the ArcGIS software. Request for maps have been produced by facsimile request, which has general worked well but requests are becoming more technical than what is allowed in the software.
- Town will spend money for GIS training – When training is available, the town has offered funds. UCONN training program has been suspended due to COVID.
- CC Budget Workshop Presented 2/9/2022 – Budget was presented similar to the previous year with an adjustment for the Conservation Agent salary. The salary line item for director was established by the Selectmen. Board of Selectmen is favorable of budget. The Wetlands Agent presented prior to D. Malo and both agents expressed the need for a new filing cabinet; Board of Selectmen was in favor of purchasing the cabinet.
- PA-490 Comments – State statue is available to residents for forestry and farming activities however the town needs to adopt an Open Space ordinance.

- Rain Barrell Application - The town with the department of public works applied for the funding, however the application was not awarded. We are encouraged and plan to apply next year.
- Tower Generator Siting Council Comment - Regarding 720 Quinebaug Road The office received notification from the Connecticut Siting Council, T-Mobile is seeking a ruling to install a new backup generator at the existing telecommunications facility. D. Malo submitted comment to the Siting Council, with Wetlands Agent Marla Butts cc'd, advising them that property may contain wetlands, as depicted on a AppGEO map provided. The property may also be listed on DEEP's Natural Diversity Database. D. Malo requested that standard erosion & sediment controls are to be used where needed to protect the wetlands & undeveloped sections of the property.
- FEMA Flood Maps - CT is in the process of updating FEMA maps along the Quinebaug River. Information will be provided as it is available.
- AppGeo Conservation Easements Not on List - There are inconsistencies between the AppGEO maps and the list of Conservation Easements. D. Malo is hoping to reconcile the AppGeo Map with our Conservation Easement list and follow up with property owners to monitor the easements.
- Reappointments - N. O'Leary and P. Thomas commission terms are due to expire 3/15/2022. Commissioners should come into the town hall to get reappointed.
- Eastern CT Forest Landowners Association/Wolf Den Land Trust 2/16/2022 meeting - CT DEEP Service Forester Frank Cervo presented about the differing objectives of those who study forests and those who steward them via the ZOOM platform. He addressed misconceptions about timber harvests, clear-cutting, healthy understories, forest regeneration and provided an extensive question-and-answer session at the well-attended program.
- UConn Extension Grown Connected Program - Joy Tyler would like to do presentation on the "Grown Connected" local farm program. It is suggested Thompson to partner with a neighboring town. The schedule is pretty busy this month so scheduling the program in March or April is better.
- Restructured schedule - Office hours are Monday & Wednesday 7:30am-4:00pm with appointments available at other times. Remainder of D. Malo (20) hours will be remote (emails, easement assessments, grant opportunities).
- Resignation from IWC recording Secretary - Dan Malo has resigned for the Inlands Wetlands Recording Secretary. The town is looking for a replacement.
- New Legislative season - The Connecticut State Legislature convened on 2/9/22. We should be keeping an eye out for proposed bills which might be within the scope of our activities to offer pertinent comment. I will be monitoring statewide non-profit groups' calls-to-action.

b. Other

6. Old Business

- Fabyan Property with "Honor Roll" marker - No Updates
 - Bluebird Nesting Boxes - Discussed Previously
 - Cemetery Projects for 2022 - Still working on grant, should be completed this year. This is a continuation of Wilsonville Cemetery Gravestone repair.
 - Discussion of the Draft Subdivision Regulations - Discussed previously. multiple changes were presented.
- **N. O'Leary asked about why these changes are coming forth. D. Malo responded**

that the document was prepared based on research, suggestions from commissions, relationship with contractors and engineers.

7. New Business

a. Mountain Bike Map – D. Malo will try to help Charlie Obert with a bike map.

8. Citizens' Comments: none

9. Members' Forum

- Judy Rondeau – Pollinator Pathway Program. Meeting was held February 16th. Eastern CT group is looking to expand to Thompson. Judy will send information to commission members. Looking for town owned property to plant pollinator plants.
- Carol Smith – New water line is going in under Main Street Bridge.

10. Announcements

- Seedling sale brochure was released today. D. Malo will send to the commission members.

11. Next Meeting is Monday, March 21, 2022

12. Meeting adjourned by Norma O'Leary at 9:02 PM.

View the Zoom Recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/pd2lcldvC-IYK_CHqjqSOpdOv2bs151sPclEiHh7vP50tF3bsz7ylxnUVXH3NUvF.WS_Of0b7QFdPc7XP
Passcode: ^2meL?rE

Submitted 03/02/2022

Heather J. Gauthier

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.*