



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Conservation
Commission

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MONDAY, March 21, 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 7:02 PM.

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

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

Guests: Valerie Clark, Amy St. Onge (First Selectman)

2. Approval of Minutes - December 20, 2021, and February 22, 2022

Judy Rondeau moved and Carol Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes from the previous meetings. All in favor. The motion carried.

3. Financial Matters (to be mailed to members)

- Used 82.4% of the yearly budgeted amount. Expenditures were \$16,488 with \$3,514.52 remaining for the current fiscal year.

4. Correspondence

a. Members received via email:

- December 20, 2021 meeting minutes, with corrections, noted February 22, 2022.
- February 22, 2022 meeting minutes

b. Incoming Mail:

- CT Audubon Society Membership Renewal - Thank You Letter
- CT Land Conservation Conference Annual Renewal - Thank You Letter
- (3/21) CT Wildlife Magazine

c. Outgoing Mail:

- Meeting packet sent to Phil Thomas

d. Incoming Mail via email: None

e. Outgoing Mail via email: None

5. Conservation Officer Report (Dan Malo)

- Bluebird Nesting Boxes - Nesting boxes are available at the Conservation Office. The Bluebird Program was advertised in the Selectmen Update and on the town website Conservation page. A letter was submitted to the editor of the villager to advertise the boxes. Dan emailed a letter, attaching the DEEP fact sheet, to those looking for boxes letting them know where to pick up the Bluebird boxes. Two boxes have been distributed. The town is still looking for photographs of the Bluebird boxes, our last photos are from 2017.
- Annual Giving - The commission received thank you letters for their membership renewal from the Connecticut Audubon Society and the Connecticut Land Conservation Council.
- Selectmen Update - The Selectman Update was published; digital copies are available online and printed copies are available in the town hall. All members received a printed copy. The Conservation update featured information on the Bluebird Boxes,

Neglected Cemetery Grants, and commission vacancies.

- Draft Subdivision Regulation Revisions – Still progressing; there will be meeting this Thursday for the stormwater management and low impact development sections of the regulations.
- Airline Trail – CT Resource Conservation & Development hosted a meeting to develop the airline trail Master Plan. The Airline Trail covers the twelve-town area. Thompson does not strongly publicize the Airline Trail in relation to the amount of trail that is in the town. Many other towns list themselves as a “Trail Town”, Thompson is not listed as an involved town and does not advertise as a “Trail Town”. Thompson has many trails in the town.
- Grant Seeking – Commission members were sent the list of available grants. This is a preliminary list that contains clickable links for further information. Some grants require a monetary match, there are some smaller grants that do not require matching.
- Map for Town Planner – Dan will be working on an ArcGIS map to show the preferred areas for “Conservation Subdivisions” for the town planner. The map will overlay natural, recreational, and other resources to identify geographic area. Commission members will be able to view the map once it is available.
- Bicycling Map – Charlie Obert from EDC requested a map that showed bicycling routes from the Pomfret Airline Trail to the Thompson Airline Trail. Marla Butts was able to locate a previously produced map and provide that to Charlie. No further information has been requested.
- PA-490 Comments – At the March 15th Board of Selectmen meeting more information was requested before a decision will be made on the formal adoption of PA-490 open space regulation. Updates will be provided as they are available.
- Reappointments – First Selectmen, Amy St. Onge has re-appointed Norma O’Leary and Phil Thomas to the commission.
- New Equipment – The town will be combining phone services with the school. The new phones will be installed next week. The new phone system features an auto-attendant and is estimated to save the town about \$800/month. The “go live” date is Friday March 25th.
- Dumping Complaints – Dumping complaints continue to come in. Most recently there is a complaint about dumping on a remote portion of land owned by the RI Boy Scouts (Off of Baker Road/Wakefield Pond Road). This issue is still under investigation.
- Wetlands – Marla Butts will be out of the office for surgery. Marla will be working remotely, Dan Malo will be covering the office and assisting with inspections as needed. Timeline for recovery will be 4-6 weeks. Complaints about wetland clearing, no permits, deer baiting, moving property markers that occurred this time last year seem to be resurfacing.

6. Old Business

- Fabyan Property with “Honor Roll” marker – No Updates
- Bluebird Nesting Boxes – Discussed Previously.
- Cemetery Projects for 2022 – Norma O’Leary is handing out bags for the Roadside Cleanup kicking off on April 2nd. She is asking to get volunteers to clean up a cemetery. There is still money from the grant to be used on Wiltonville Cemetery gravestone repairs. Work is needed on the stones at the Quaddick Cemetery and the Bates Cemetery in Bonnette Acres.
- Discussion of the Draft Subdivision Regulations – Discussed Previously.

- a. Possibly Application for Review. Interest in subdivision for the area recently purchased near the Knights of Columbus. The Dam in that area, has been a concern for years, due to it's deteriorating status. The new developer would like to maintain the Dam and the surrounding area.

7. New Business

- a. Pollinator Pathway - The town hall has some plants that encourage the pollinators. Information has been uploaded to the website (right next to the Bluebird Nesting Boxes). Pollinator Pathways establish pollinator-friendly habitats and food sources for bees, butterflies and birds. Landowners that participate can be located on the pollinator map and get a medallion for their property. You can find more information at <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>
- b. Seedling sale brochure was released today. D. Malo will send the local sale flyer to commission members. Online link <https://conservect.org/eastern/>

8. Citizens' Comments

Valerie Clark, 105 Alm Road - expressed concern over dumping concerns. Further information was given for understanding of a Conservation Subdivision Development; (D. Malo explained this an incentive for developers to create a compact development to preserve as much open space as possible). J. Rondeau shared a photo comparing a traditional subdivision and a conservation subdivision. Valerie Clark presented questions on the taxation of smaller lots in a subdivision.

9. Members' Forum - None

10. Announcements

- Norma O'Leary, asked when the public will be made aware of the Selectmen's Update. The update is in digital format and hard copies are available in town offices.

11. Next Meeting is Monday, April 18, 2022 at 7pm (hybrid).

12. Meeting adjourned by Norma O'Leary at 8:12 PM.

View the Zoom Recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/pjlo1q8Xa_TxLyGQw3EjQvCoDBJqlaZto4TYVGqeSfc50UK39m5ppiLhepENrBtZ.byHNG8C2Pu1qXhwg

Passcode: 6je0f7*e

Submitted 03/28/2022

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.*