

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

MINUTES MARCH 17, 2014  
TOWN HALL 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

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Chairman Phil Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

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

Staff present: Ida Ransom and Carolyn Werge.

*Approval of Minutes*

1. **Ron Tillen moved and Norma O'Leary seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2013 meeting as presented; the motion carried.**

*Financial Matters*

1. As of February 26, 2014, 63.9 % of the budget has been spent. There is \$ 6,425.06 remaining.

*Correspondence*

1. Members received via email:
  - a. Minutes: Conservation Commission, December 16, 2013.
  - b. Agenda and Minutes: Planning and Zoning Commission, February 24, 2014.
  - c. Agenda and Minutes: Zoning Board of Appeals, March 10, 2014.
  - d. Agenda: Conservation Commission, March 17, 2014.
  - e. CT Agriculture Commission Conference 2014 - "Selling Local Agriculture," will be held Saturday, April 5, 2014, 9-3 PM, EastConn in Hampton, CT.
  - f. Emails between Carolyn Werge and State Archeologist Nick Bellantoni with a date of May 19, 2014 to have Nick and a technician visit the Junia Joslin Cemetery.
  - g. The Thompson Historical Society Presents: Rediscovering Thompson's Place Along the Old Connecticut Path, Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 7 PM, Library Community Center.
  - h. Connecticut Farm Bureau workshops on disaster planning – March 22, March 29 and April 12.
  - i. The Land Use Academy is offering an Advanced Training session on April 5, 2014 at the Middlesex County Extension Office in Haddam, CT. Cost is \$40.
  - j. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual CT Conference on Natural Resources, Monday, March 17, 2014, UConn Student Union Building.
2. Outgoing Mail: None
3. Incoming Mail
  - a. Dated January 28, 2014, from John Yuro, 51 Highland Drive, Quinebaug, a thank you for his bluebird house with a picture of bluebirds at his feeder.
  - b. *The Habitat*, Winter 2014.
  - c. Dated February 7, 2014, announcement of the annual Aquarion Environmental Champion Awards with due date of May 7, 2014.
  - d. Dated February 28, 2014, from Ida Ransom, her resignation as recording secretary effective May 1, 2014.

*Officer and Committee Reports*

1. Conservation Officer Report
  - a. New Request: None
  - b. Old Requests: None.

- c. Board of Selectmen – items to be resolved
  - 1) First Selectman Paul Lenky is still waiting for a written response from Attorney St. Onge on the liability issue for cemetery volunteers.
  - 2) First Selectman Lenky is taking our inquiry about the proposed Conservation ordinance change to the Board of Selectmen and with their approval will move it forward to a Town Meeting.
  - 3) The advertisement for the recording secretary is to be in this week's newspaper.
  - 4) Amy Coman is to be reappointed at the March 18, 2014 Selectmen's meeting; this was requested earlier but was not addressed.
  - 5) According to First Selectman Lenky, Allan Rawson will schedule a site walk of the two parcels of land he is donating to the Town once the ground conditions are favorable.
- d. Cemeteries Project
  - 1) Carolyn Werge is working on more pictures and a narrative to go along with the Poor Farm Cemetery entry on the website. Once it is complete she will publish her findings and place copies in the Library, with the Town Clerk and with the Historical Society. To date, she has not been able to identify any persons buried there.
  - 2) State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni will visit the Junia Joslin Cemetery with a technician on May 19 to try and determine if this is a burial ground.
- e. Carolyn Werge, at the request of the First Selectman, attended the pre-construction presentation by three CL&P representatives concerning the Interstate Reliability Project which runs through 1.9 miles of southeast Thompson. The project web site is [www.NEEWSprojects.com](http://www.NEEWSprojects.com)
- f. Other updates
  - 1) Because of a corrupt file, Carolyn Werge had to re-create the "Permanently Protected Lands Map". It was available for review and is on the Conservation web site.
  - 2) Wyndham Land Trust asked for and received some information from the Conservation office.
  - 3) Phil Thomas, Bernie Davis and Carolyn Werge will be meeting with First Selectman Lenky to discuss the Town's new web site policy and its potential impact on the Conservation web site projects.
  - 4) The Thompson Trails Committee has asked for help with mapping trails in town. It was the consensus that Carolyn Werge will assist them. She is hopeful that once she has created a template that this task will not be too time consuming since she will be doing the work on Conservation Commission time.

#### *Old Business*

- 1. Update on previous Conservation reviews: None
- 2. Cemeteries: see the Conservation Officer's Report
- 3. Blue Bird Houses: see Incoming Mail.
- 4. Barn Survey
  - a. Ron Tillen reported that he has not received the support that he was hoping to obtain from the State and from the Historical Society. He will continue his efforts.
  - b. Norma O'Leary offered to help him gain access to some of the barns so he can obtain more information and better photographs.
- 5. "Honor Roll" Plaque
  - a. There is no update since the property is still on the market.
  - b. Chairman Thomas stated that the VFW is hoping to install a new flag pole near the plaque before Memorial Day; there may be a ceremony associated with this.
- 6. Potential Properties in Thompson for future preservation
  - a. Two copies of the latest map showing parcels with 25 or more acres were available for review. It was the consensus that this is a very worthwhile map to have.
  - b. Ron Tillen asked about the National Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) mapping and how DEEP updates the information. Per Carolyn Werge, it is currently updated every six months. She will provide him with more information on how they collect the information to do the updates.

#### *New Business*

- 1. Requests for Review of Potential Development Proposals: None

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*Public Forum:* None

*Members' Forum*

1. Ron Tillen reported that he attended a Land Use Conference at Wesleyan in Middletown. One of the best workshops dealt with the economic benefits of land conservation.
2. Chairman Thomas stated that with a long range strategic plan in place the Town might be able to set funds aside for conservation. Carolyn Werge noted that the Planning and Zoning program for "fees in lieu of open space" is in place which does give the Town some funds to help with land conservation projects.

*Announcements:* None

*Future Meeting*

1. The next meeting will be held Monday, April 21, 2014 at 7 PM in the Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room.

*Adjournment*

1. Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:29 PM.

Ida Ransom  
Recording Secretary