



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Conservation
Commission

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MONDAY, April 18, 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 & Dave Clark, Amy St. Onge (First Selectman)

2. Approval of Minutes – March 21, 2022

Peter Cummins moved and Carol Smith seconded the motion to accept the minutes from the March 21st meeting. All in favor. The motion carried.

3. Financial Matters (to be mailed to members)

- Used 93.2% of the yearly budgeted amount, there is \$1,369.69 remaining for the current fiscal year.
- Salary line has exceeded the original appropriation. The Board of Finance is aware of the expenditure. The increase is due to the hours being estimated from the former conservation agents hours which were less than the hours that is currently being used in by Dan Malo.

4. Correspondence

a. Members received via email:

- March 21, 2022 meeting minutes

b. Incoming Mail:

- Cemetery restoration company advertisement
- ArchGIS quarterly magazine

c. Outgoing Mail:

- Meeting packet sent to Phil Thomas

d. Incoming Mail via email: None

e. Outgoing Mail via email:

- Pollinator Pathway Brochure – Judy Rondeau

5. Conservation Officer Report (Dan Malo)

- **Blain Footbridge at West Thompson Dam:** Ribbon cutting for the new footbridge will be April 22, 2022 at 3:00 PM. Several dignitaries will be in attendance. Parking will be at the boat launch, smaller areas near the footbridge may also be available.
- **Bluebird nesting boxes:** The program was advertised in a Villager and by the First Selectman on a WINY broadcast, both were well received. There are 4 boxes remaining in the conservation office, and a wait list of about 25 people. Dan has reached out to several organizations and contacts to see if they would be willing to donate time or materials.
- **Burial site near the Knights of Columbus:** Documentation from former agent, Carolyn Werge, provided some information regarding the approximate location and history of the burial site. No further information was asked for by the town planner. The developer expressed interest in preserving the site.

A request for information was received from a local boy scout who wants to do a trail walk with stations for his BSA Eagle Scout Project. The walk is more into the private land, Amy St. Onge is going to suggest the Wilsonville playground. The project is nursery rhymes on small placards.

- **Draft Subdivision Regulation Revisions:** There were two recent meetings which Dan Malo attended. Several topics were discussed including Shared vs Private Drives, Open Space, and the Conservation Subdivision concept. Many of the ideas and concerns brought forth by the conservation office (Carolyn Werge) were incorporated. The questions surrounding Net Buildable Lot Size presented by Marla Butts (Wetlands) were discussed in detail. Dan Malo was mostly asked questions from his experience in Windsor Locks as a Wetlands and Zoning Officer, regarding application checklist items, preferred map scales, and homeowner's associations. There is still a lot of review to be completed. More meetings have been scheduled.
- **New Equipment:** New phones were installed throughout the Town Hall. Dan Malo received a new laptop computer; it does have a smaller screen, but it runs more efficiently. IT has moved files from the old computers and uploaded them to the cloud which are now available to the new computer. The old computers will be held at IT for 6 months in case we may need to access files that did not transfer to the cloud. ArcGIS has been successfully installed and registered. There was a lot of time used to complete the installation, programming, troubleshooting, and updating of the computers and software this week.
- **Wetlands:** Dan Malo has been assisting Wetlands Agent Marla Butts with enforcement matters while she is recovering from surgery by performing inspections when needed. I recently investigated and sent a Notice of Violation for clearing and grading in the wetlands along Quaddick Town Farm Road. I submitted my resignation for the Recording Secretary position and hope to be relieved as soon as possible. Dan Malo has been able to keep his current schedule while assisting Marla Butts.
- **FEMA Flood Maps.** They were received today. Marla Butts was posting the map to the wetland's website. There seems to be more land covered by the flood plan.

6. Old Business

- Fabyan Property with "Honor Roll" marker - No Updates.
- Bluebird Nesting Boxes - Discussed Previously.

7. New Business

- a. Subdivision Regulations - Information will be provided.
- b. Development Regulations - Information will be provided.
- c. Conservation Easements - Ballard Road. Dan Malo provided medallions to Mr. Perry (general contractor for the property). Dan Malo will confirm the placements of the markers before the CO is issued. The west side of the road has the easements shown on the MapGeo/ArcGIS but it is not on the deed. On the east side of the road has easements on the deed but they are not shown on the ArcGIS.
- d. Conservation Commission Membership - There has been some inquiries. Susan Wheeler has applied for commission membership.

8. Citizens' Comments

Valerie Clark, 105 Alm Road - expressed concern about the violation issued.

Amy St. Onge (First Selectmen) - I enjoy the bluebirds in the area. The bluebird boxes are working.

9. Members' Forum

Peter Cummins - Peter and his wife have been working on roadside cleanup (Fabyan Road to Red Bridge; Brickyard Road to Kapitulik; currently on 131 from the church to the Dudley MA line). The State has been doing cleanup on route 131.

Carol Smith - Roadside cleanup on Quaddick Town Farm Road.

10. Announcements

- Dan Malo, Ribbon Cutting for Blain Footbridge this Friday at 3pm.
- Norma O'Leary, Joslin Cemetery neighbor has some trees that need to be cut down and Norma

provided a contact information of tree person.

11. Next Meeting is Monday, May 16, 2022, at 7pm (hybrid).

12. Meeting adjourned by Norma O'Leary at 7:43 PM.

View the Zoom Recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/_o3yqjp_ZnGUeHoKESJ8Ladsl0WYEtOjmsxmmlxEogBaqKEJrhxZNV0S-56-nOnw.bcQCA7kxgl3DQZ-i

Passcode: \$FE^8hXc

Submitted 04/26/2022

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.*