



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Conservation
Commission

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Regular Meeting

Wednesday, July 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 7:00 PM.

Present: Norma O'Leary, Dave Clark, Judith Rondeau, Carol Smith, Sue Wheeler,

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

Guests: Al Landry, Amy St. Onge (First Selectman)

2. Approval of Minutes – June 22, 2022 (Special Meeting)

Dave Clark moved, and Susan Wheeler seconded the motion to accept the minutes from the June 22nd special meeting. The motion approved 4-0-1.

Clarification requested by Norma O'Leary on the BSA Dumping Update. Dan Malo made initial contact to BSA to make them aware of dumping on their property, he has not received any follow up communication. Wording on page 3, under Citizen's Comments #8 Valerie Clark 3rd comments about Robbins/O'Leary Preserve; the word "know" is erroneous as the preserve is aware there is ATV use.

3. Financial Matters (to be mailed to members)

This is a new fiscal year, there is \$28,444.93 available funds, 2.1% has been used. Judith Rondeau moved, and Susan Wheeler seconded the motion to accept the financials as presented. The motion approved 5-0-0.

4. Correspondence

a. Members received via email:

- June 22nd, 2022 – Special Meeting Minutes

b. Incoming Mail: None

- Slow for this year. Today we did get an ArcGIS newsletter

c. Outgoing Mail: None

d. Incoming Mail via email: None

e. Outgoing Mail via email: None

5. Conservation Officer Report (Dan Malo)

- **Mountain Laurel Presentation at Yale-Myers Forest:** Presentation on July 27th at the Yale-Myers Forest from PhD Candidate Eli Ward. This is being presented in person and by zoom at 6:30 pm. Link for more information: <https://yse.to/laurel>
- **UConn Clear Training Opportunities:** UCONN offers free training which included Inland Wetlands Certification and Aquifer Protection training. It would be beneficial for commission members to take a look at these training as they are full of information. Link for more information: <https://clear.uconn.edu/training/>
UConn is not offering the ArcGIS training or certification that is compatible with what program is being used by the town. The training program they previously used has to be updated.
- **University of Rhode Island GIS Certification information session:** University of Rhode Island hosted an informational session. There are four courses over two semesters for a cost of \$10,274. The software training is based off the ArcGIS Pro program, which is higher than what is being used by the town.
- **DEEP Open Space Grant info Session:** information session was held on July 14th, 2022, for this grant. The grant was geared to municipalities who already have space available. Connecticut is not meeting its open space protection goals and Thompson is in a good position to complete an application if the space was available. Windham Land Trust has steadily gained land in Thompson over the years; currently they have about over 1500 acres. Thompson has lost two protected properties recently, Wolf Den Land Trust & CT Forest and Park Association.

- **Thompson Litter League:** Thompson Recreation has organized this program which runs through September. The goal is 20 teams to do the competition and collection. Norma O'Leary will inquire to Brian Lievens (recreation director) about the opportunities for cleaning near the cemeteries.
- **Flashing Sign at Town Hall:** This is available for groups or commissions to use.
- **Special Town Meeting:** Town meeting on July 26th to adopt (3) proposed ordinances. The first is to lower the size of the recreation commission. The second ordinance is MS-4 regarding the Illicit Discharge and Connection Stormwater. The third ordinance is regarding PA-490 Open Space. Copies of the ordinances were left with commission members.
Amy St. Onge - The ordinance review committee spent about 6 weeks drafting the ordinance. The ordinance offers a fair and respective language from the 1979 decision.
Dave Clark - It seems to be much less contentious than when the discussions started.
- **Resignation:** Phil Thomas has submitted his resignation due to health reasons. This resignation will leave a vacancy on the commission. Currently Norma O'Leary is the Vice-Chairman and Carol Smith is the Treasurer. The commission should vote on officers.
- **Phone Issues:** Calls to the Conservation office should go to 860-923-1852, extension 2.
- **Hazardous Waste Day:** This was held on June 25th. Hopefully we receive report on how successful the event was. **Amy St. Onge, this was not the most successful event with about 150 cars that came through. A full report will come from the Highway Department.
- **Wildlife Crossing Signs:** There are eight signs left. These are heavy duty signs which were purchased years ago. Suggestions provided by the town members for Quaddick Town Farm Road and Wilsonville Road. No contact has been made with the state police about locations of accidents involving or caused by animals.
- **Review of Conservation Easements:** This is still ongoing. Dan Will start with town own properties at Arrowhead road and the Tri-state Marker.
- **White Mountains National Reserve Timber Program:** There was a presentation on the forest silverculture and timber harvest program. The white mountains are a national reserve for timber.
- **UConn Clear GIS Training:** Discussed previously under UConn Clear Training Opportunities.
- **FEMA Floodplain mapping:** Maps are open for review, comment, and appeal. The maps go into effect in 2024. There is a AppGeo filter that is being created with the updated flood maps. Dan Malo will share a link with commission members to see the updated maps.
- **Neglected Cemeteries Grant:** There is no information on whether there will be a 2022/2023 grant. The current grant for Wilsonville Cemetery will expire in November. Currently there are several people working at the Wilsonville Cemetery. The goal is to be completed by September 30th.
- **Bluebird nesting boxes:** We have given out 26 boxes this year, there is a waitlist of 31 people who are wanting Bluebird boxes. Still looking for donations of materials or time to produce the boxes. Mike, Monyon Road Putnam, has made about 8 boxes that were given to Norma O'Leary/Conservation Department; a thank you has been sent by Norma O'Leary. The commission discussed reaching out to Bernie Davis and local boy scouts to see if they are willing to donate public service hours to make boxes. Dave Clark has offered to try and build some boxes.
- **Draft Subdivision Regulation Revisions:** Still an ongoing process. Marla Butts is meeting with the town planner and Joe Parutti in August. Marla has concerns about lot sizes. The goal is to have the revisions finished by October. Marla Butts is still intending to give a presentation to the Planning and Zoning Commission, the date for the presentation is to be determined.

6. Old Business

- Bluebird Nesting Boxes - Discussed previously in the agent's report.
- Storage Cabinet Appropriation - The cabinet has not been ordered as of yet. Marla Butts is still in discussion with her department on purchasing this cabinet.

7. New Business:

- No New Applications. Jason Leveille is working off Old Turnpike Road, This is a subdivision, there are easements on that road. The easements are not written on easement lists.
- Burial Spot behind the Knights of Columbus (Norma O'Leary). The commission should see what the procedure and price is to section off the burial ground. Dan Malo will look into this. The site does have to be confirmed that it is in fact a burial ground.

8. Citizens' Comments

- Al Landry. Butterfly Corridor, I have tended the garden on the side of the town hall (Selectmen side) for

years. Milkweed is needed by Monarch Butterfly for all phases of life. The garden will need to be tended regularly.

9. Members' Forum

- Dave Clark. Damage at the East Thompson Cemetery. The people caring for the cemeteries have caused damage. The headstones have been hit by those mowing the cemetery, the stones were damaged with the equipment used to take out the trees, litter is left on top of gravesites, and headstones are being laid on other headstones. The caretakers do not seem to be being careful. Norma O'Leary will discuss concerns with John Rice.
- Norma O'Leary. If there are any costs associated with the materials needed for the burial site, Dan Malo will check with the town planner to see if there are grant possibilities to help with costs. Summer Camp/Cemetery presentation; Norma inquired if Dan Malo knew about the possibility of Lynn giving a presentation to the summer camp on recycling & cemetery clean up. Last year, there was a presentation given on how to clean gravestones. Norma will reach out to Brian Lievense to see if there are any programs scheduled.

10. Announcements

- Town Meeting on July 26th
- Summer Concerts.
- Town Wide Tag Sale at the end of the month.
- Sidewalk work is underway and should be completed by September.

11. Next Meeting is Monday, August 15, 2022, at 7pm (hybrid).

12. Meeting adjourned by Norma O'Leary at 8:14 PM.

View the Zoom Recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vY4Qa5ZopLd-QLjO_sM2prQseq7lqA-d-t8BGzu3hNdXwAarg0yAx2b9lPIYzsfE.FULJ_bFH7Gf7aIPq

Passcode: i\$783@IU

*Submitted 07/26/2022
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.*