



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Conservation
Commission

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Regular Meeting

Monday, October 17, 2022

Seney Room at the THOMPSON TOWN HALL Hybrid meeting via ZOOM:

1. Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order by Norma O'Leary at 7:04 PM.

Present: Norma O'Leary (Intermediate Chair), Carol Smith, Dave Clark, Patricia Cheever, Judith Rondeau, Sue Wheeler

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

Guests: Amy St. Onge (First Selectman)

Members give brief introduction of themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes - August 15, 2022

Dave Clark moved, and Judith Rondeau seconded the motion to accept the minutes from the August 15th regular meeting. The motion approved 6-0-0.

3. Financial Matters

Available budget is \$20,738.39. We have used 28.6%.

4. Correspondence

a. Members received via email:

- August 15, 2022 - Meeting Minutes
- Agent Report
- Proposed 2023 Meeting Dates

b. Incoming Mail:

- Connecticut Wildlife Magazine July/August 2022 edition

c. Outgoing Mail: None

d. Incoming Mail via email:

- Invoice from Parker Cemetery Services
- Summary of 2022 Zoning Regulations Updates

e. Outgoing Mail via email: None

5. Conservation Officer Report (Dan Malo)

- **Commission Membership:** Pat Cheever has been appointed to the commission. The commission has a full roster. Phil Thomas passed away.
- **Election of Officers:** Will be discussed under New Business.
- **2023 Meeting Dates:** Will be discussed under New Business.
- **Healthy Water Plan:** Watershed Plan for the French River. This should be reviewed by commission members and see if there is interest in the 2023 year.
- **Neglected and Abandoned Cemeteries Grant:** The state is no longer offering the grant. The grants received over the past few years to improve the cemeteries in town.
- **Cemetery Tours and other Cemetery Promotion Ideas:** Information was provided to members about how other towns have promoted cemeteries. Norma O'Leary expressed interest in getting the cemeteries promoted.
- **North Grosvenordale Possible Burial Site:** No response from the state archeologist. There is no movement from the developer in this area.
- **Selectman Update:** The article was submitted in regard to the bluebird boxes. There are still requests coming in for the boxes. The selectman update can be found at

<https://www.thompsonct.org/home/news/hot-presses-the-selectmens-update-fall-winter-2022>

- **Forested Wetlands Soils Field Workshop at UCONN:** Dave Clark was able to attend this meeting. The workshop was geared to development and foresters licensing.
- **Updates to Zoning Map:** Dan Malo is working with Arch GIS 10.8. He hopes to have some updates that have been requested by the town. The deadline for the updates is December 2022.
- **Shared Storage Cabinet:** The cabinet has not been purchased. The office needs to be reorganized to accommodate the cabinet. Both Wetlands and Conservation Commissions have set aside funds for the cabinet.
- **Informational Session regarding Zoning Regulations Update:** Marla Butts, Wetland Agent, provided an informational presentation to the Zoning Commissions (the zoom recorded link will be shared with commission members). There was some information on definitions for the zoning regulations. The commission was provided with a draft/red-lined copy of the regulations.
- **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems General Permits:** The MS-4 General Permit is being worked on by J&D Civil Engineers. There could be some workshops for the public in the future.
- **CACIWC Membership & Habitat Newsletter:** We have renewed our shared registration. The annual Meeting will be held in New Haven on October 29th. The new "Habitat" newsletter can be found at <https://www.caciwc.org/library/habitat/index.html>. CACIWC has also published a guide for Conservation Commissioners (Handout left for Patricia Cheever).
- **Woodstock Wetlands Agent & Zoning Officer:** Dan Malo has accepted a position as the Woodstock Wetland agent and Zoning officer. He will be working there on Tuesday & Thursday. Dan Malo's schedule at Thompson will be Monday, Wednesday, and every other Friday.
- **Covering the Wetlands Office:** Dan Malo was covering for Marla Butts while she was on vacation. There were very few inquiries, one inquiry involved the erosion and sediment control issue on New Road (blow out of sediment over top of bank into the driveway).
- **Wetlands Recording Secretary:** Dan Malo is still the recording secretary until a replacement is found.
- **Quaddick Town Farm Road Fire:** There is no updates from the state about the fire that occurred in early August. The property is also the location of some wetland issues and violations. Marla Butts and Dan Malo will reach out to the Fire Marshall, Jamie Seney, for an update.
- **Website Updates:** The Commission member roster has been updated. The site is very uniform and looks similar to other town websites. Commissioners are encouraged to review the website at <https://www.thompsonct.org/conservation-commission>
- **Connecticut Wildlife Magazine:** This was presented for commissioners. The online edition can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/Connecticut-Wildlife-Magazine>
- **Maple Sap Collection Workshop:** Yale-Myers Forest will be hosting a workshop on Saturday October 22nd, regarding the Tubing System Installation and Sap Storage. YALE Myers Forest is hosting other workshops on Maple related items; the schedule of workshops can be found by visiting "Yale Forest Maple Workshop". Please RSVP for this event at <https://forests.yale.edu/resources/maple>
- **The Last Green Valley:** Walktober is being hosted in October. Thompson is hosting a walk to include the Train Wreck Park on October 20th and a hike of the Tamler Preserve and a 'Night Sky Adventure on October 22nd. A full calendar of events can be found at <https://thelastgreenvalley.org/explore-the-last-green-valley/walktober/>
- **Bull Hill:** The Wyndham Land Trust received a donation of \$10,000 which is being used towards the purchase of 91-acres off of Bull Hill. Once the purchase is complete there could be more activity and trails at this location.

- **Wyndham Land Trust Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting was held on October 6th at Tyrone Farm. The meeting included membership and acquisition goals. DEEP wildlife agent did a presentation on black bear population in CT.
- **The Randof Property as Open Space:** Identified by Dan Malo as a potential open space property that would be good for Thompson to acquire.
- **Other priority properties and the state's Open Space Grant:** Dan Malo is looking at properties that have a link to already preserved land. The state has not met its open space requirements. Thompson should complete an application when an appropriate property is identified.

(Judith Rondeau) During the open space plan preparations years ago, the committee looked at co-appearing resources and identifying preservation. It might be worth revisiting the materials to see if we agree on the criteria. (Dan Malo) The document is from 2005, it could be worth updating. This was part of the Open Space Committee that ran from 2003-2005 and prepared the publication "Open Space and Conservation Plan." The Conservation Committee should consider reviewing this plan.

6. Old Business: None

7. New Business

- **Election of Members:** Nominations by Norma O'Leary: Judith Rondeau (Chair), Norma O'Leary (Vice-Chair), Carol Smith (Treasurer). **Sue Wheeler moved, and Dave Clark seconded the motion to accept the nomination and move to have formal elections of members as noted above. The motion approved 6-0-0.**

There was a discussion on the roles of the Conservation Commission members, programs that are affected by conservation and the MS-4 stormwater system.

- **Discussion of 2023 Meeting Dates:** Dates were reviewed. **Judith Rondeau motioned to approve the draft meeting schedule; Dave Clark seconded the motion. The motion approved 6-0-0.**

8. Citizens' Comments

- Amy St. Onge - New Town Public Work Director is Joe Tkacik. He has been with the town for 18 years.

9. Members' Forum

- Dave Clark. There was an ATV accident in East Thompson (trails off Baker).
- Judith Rondeau. Parker Cemetery Services Invoice for \$720. **Judith Rondeau motioned to approve the invoice for payment; Sue Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion approved 6-0-0.** This was for the Wilsonville Cemetery; the invoice is for the amount over the grant funds that were received. (Dan Malo) There is a town cemetery line of about \$1500. There is another account for cemetery services, but the finance director needs to locate the spreadsheet.

10. Announcements

- Turkey Trot (5K run/3K walk)
- Laser Light Show (TMHS) - October 27th

11. Next Meeting is Monday, November 21, 2022, at 7pm (hybrid).

12. Meeting adjourned by Norma O'Leary at 8:37 PM.

View the Zoom Recording

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/iLYNGhNIROttfRswQnxjV53Y6SnNbIsta86Xb2UYro70-vrcP599og2MfIylbFjp.OqjiZfxCfNuo17XQ>

Passcode: 7?JB\$?nD

Submitted 11/06/2022

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.*