



## TOWN OF THOMPSON

Conservation  
Commission

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### Regular Meeting

Monday, November 21, 2022

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

1. Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order by Judith Rondeau at 7:00 PM.

Present: Judith Rondeau (Chair), Norma O'Leary, Carol Smith, Dave Clark, Patricia Cheever, Peter Cummings

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

Guests: Amy St. Onge (First Selectman)

2. Approval of Minutes – October 17, 2022

**Norma O'Leary moved, and Patricia Cheever seconded the motion to accept the minutes from the October 15<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. The motion approved 6-0-0.**

3. Financial Matters

There was no budget available for review. There were no expenses incurred beyond salary for Dan Malo and Heather Gauthier.

4. Correspondence

a. Members received via email:

- October 17, 2022 – Meeting Minutes
- Conservation Agent Report

b. Incoming Mail:

- Audubon Society 2022 State of the Bird Report.

c. Outgoing Mail: None

d. Incoming Mail via email: None

e. Outgoing Mail via email: None

5. Conservation Officer Report (Dan Malo)

- **Healthy Water Plan:** Previously the commission discussed a “healthy water plan” for the French River. There was a plan for the Natchaug River that the commission considered last year about implementing, This is separate from the MS4 work that is being completed by J&D Civil Engineers. The French River Watershed-Based Plan was sent to all commissioners. There are recommendations in the plan commissioners should consider implementing in the healthy water plan.
- **CACIWC Handbook for CT Conservation Commission & Thompson Conservation & Open Space Plan:** Members have been provided copies of the CT Commission Handbook and the Thompson's Conservation & Open Space plan. The Plan was developed in 2015, should the commission consider updating this plan. CACIWC has also published a guide for Conservation Commissioners (Handout left for Patricia Cheever).
- **Neglected and Abandoned Cemeteries Grant:** The request for reimbursement has been sent to the Office for Policy and Management, once approved a check will be sent. The state is no longer offering the grant. The recent grant provided the town with \$3,332 over the past two years to make improvements to the Wilsonville Cemetery. There are no open grants available for work at the cemeteries. Thompson Together provided \$1,000 to assist the remaining repairs at the Wilsonville Cemetery. Peter Cummins and his family have been working on the Quaddick Cemetery. Litter

League run by Recreation Department; the teams will be working on cleaning cemeteries after the Thanksgiving Holiday.

(Norma O'Leary, out of order/"Other Potential Grants") Joe Iamartino, Thompson Historical Society, is holding some cemetery records of the town; he is working on a second book "Echo's of Thompson." A volunteer is using the books Carolyn Werge had and those books/binder will be returned to Conservation when the book is finished.

- **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.
- **Other Potential Grants:** Commissioners were provided with a list of possible grant opportunities. If the commission would like to research and apply for a grant, please reach out to Dan Malo.
- **Burial Site:** No response from the state archeologist. There is no movement from the developer in this area.

(Judith Rondeau) Is there someone else we can reach out to, maybe state historic society? (Dan Malo) I can try reaching the state historic commission, but they may send us to the state archeologist or provide another lead we have not considered.

(Patricia Cheever) Don't they have machines to looking in the ground? (Judith Rondeau) Ground penetrating radar, the state archeologist office has one. Possibly NRCS has one as well. (Norma O'Leary) I can reach out to Tom.

Dan Malo will send the previous report of the area for the commission to Patricia Cheever.

- **Shared Cabinet:** The office must be rearranged to make space for the cabinet. The cabinet has not been purchased. The purchase of the cabinet has been fully encumbered by Wetlands and Conservation Commissions.
- **Woodstock Wetlands Agent & Zoning Officer:** Dan Malo has been the Woodstock Wetland & Zoning Officer on Tuesday & Thursday. Dan Malo had these responsibilities in Windsor Locks before coming to Thompson.
- **Wetlands Recording Secretary:** Dan Malo is no longer working as the recording secretary. Gloria Harvey has been hired as the recording secretary; she holds these responsibilities for other commissions. She is being oriented to the Wetlands vocabulary and jargon as well as learning to complete forms for the wetland's office.
- **Working with the Wetlands Office:** Dan Malo is working with Marla Butts on continuing issues from while Marla was out. Dan Malo has been out in the field with Marla Butts working on complicated issues; one being on New Road. There is an artesian well causing a stream to erupt; the flow is causing erosion and sediment issue on New Road (blow out of sediment over top of bank into the driveway). This issue is affecting four properties.  
(Judith Rondeau) Has Marla considered reaching out to the conservation district to see if they could make suggestions. (Dan Malo) I will talk with Marla and see if she would like to reach out.
- **Quaddick Town Farm Road Fire:** No results of the fire. Marla Butts and Dan Malo will go out to the site and see what the property looks like and see if there are any indicators of previous issues.
- **AppGeo Easement Discrepancies:** Dan Malo has been working within ArcGIS and AppGeo. He has been able to complete some requests using the software. Dan Malo will be able to create the edits for the town zoning map once it is approved from the Planner's Office. The software the town uses is a bit outdated; the current version and training is being done on ArcGIS online.

- **Website Updates:** The Commission membership has been updated. There is some resources and clickable links that are on there (Barn survey, cemetery listing). Commissioners are encouraged to review the website at <https://www.thompsonct.org/conservation-commission>

- **CT Audubon – State of the birds:** The annual report was received today. The online report can be found online at <https://www.ctaudubon.org/state-of-the-birds/>
- **Off Report:** I would like the commission to think about their goals and vision for the commission.

6. Old Business: None

7. New Business

- **Goals and Vision:**

Dan Malo has given members an insert from the CT land use academy which summarizes the conservation commission roles.

State Legislation regarding Conservation Commission. A copy of this report was given to all members, these are the duties required for conservation commissions.

- Open Space - It shall keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps, and other wetlands, for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of such areas, and may from time to time recommend to the planning commission (Except from GCA sec\_7-131a item b.)

Commission Member suggestion for goals

- MS4 Outreach
- French River Plan/Watershed Based Planning
- Open Space Planning
- Conservation Easement Inspections
- Website Updates
- Greenway on Five-Mile River (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Outdoor-Recreation/Greenways/Official-Connecticut-Greenways>)

8. Citizens' Comments

a. Amy St. Onge

- Beaver Institute Grant. I have worked with them and there are (3) beaver deterrent devices in Thompson that are working well.
- Cemetery tours. I love the idea of learning about the history of the gravestones.
- New Road. Correspondence from town attorney which indicates the ongoing issues are not a town problem.

9. Members' Forum

- Norma O'Leary. Pascoag RI offers bat and owl houses in addition to bluebird houses.
- Dan Malo. There has been requests for Wood Duck boxes.
- Dave Clark. I heard/seen evidence of a moose in the area.

10. Announcements - None

11. Next Meeting is Monday, December 19, 2022, at 7pm (hybrid).

12. Meeting adjourned by Judith Rondeau at 8:26 PM.

**View the Zoom Recording**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ovLcV4mBmnc1WcB-RIFyxb3PsKGvUZVW5ZPKz2EV7aUyUNWTs12Uuz8o7B8X6Bxd.g8ZHek0zNEUkhyAJ>

Passcode: DtMg\$X+3

*Submitted 12/13/2022*

*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.*