

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

MINUTES: APRIL 21, 2014
TOWN HALL 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

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

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

Guests present: Harry Coman

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 March 17, 2014 meeting as presented; the motion carried.**

Financial Matters

1. As of March 27, 2014, 71.3 % of the budget has been spent. There is \$ 5,100.93 remaining.

Correspondence

1. Members received via email:
 - a. Minutes: Conservation Commission, March 17, 2014.
 - b. Agenda and Minutes: Planning and Zoning Commission, March 24, 2014.
 - c. Agenda: Conservation Commission, April 21, 2014.
 - d. From Marla Butts, Inland Wetlands Commission, dated March 24, 2014, information on Raised Senate Bill No. 405 -- An Act Concerning Public Hearings On Subdivision Applications.
 - e. From Carolyn Werge, dated March 26, 2014, a copy of the memo sent to the Board of Selectmen concerning the Conservation website.
 - f. Dated March 31, 2014, a legislative update from the Working Lands Alliance Director.
 - g. Climate Adaptation Workshop, May 3, 2014, UConn Avery Point Campus, 1084 Shennecossett Rd., Groton, CT 06340.
2. Outgoing Mail: None
3. Incoming Mail
 - a. Notice that Thompson Community Day will be held Sunday, September 28, 2014 with a rain date of October 5.
 - b. Dated March 19, 2014 from Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, a thank you for the Commission's donation and from the Executive Director Margaret Miner a question as to whether the Commission is interested in working on DOT roadside pesticide spraying; interested persons can call 860-361-9349.
 - c. "The Habitat", Spring 2014.

Officer and Committee Reports

1. Conservation Officer Report
 - a. New Request: None
 - b. Old Requests: None.
 - c. Board of Selectmen
 - 1) First Selectman Paul Lenky is still waiting for a written response from Attorney St. Onge on the liability issue for cemetery volunteers.
 - 2) Carolyn Werge has been in contact with Attorney St. Onge in reference to the Conservation Commission Ordinance language; we are now waiting for a status report from the attorney.
 - 3) The meeting of Bernie Davis, Phil Thomas and Carolyn Werge with First Selectman Paul Lenky in regards to the Conservation website is being rescheduled.
 - d. Audrey Witkowski has been hired as the new recording secretary.
 - e. Amy Coman-Hoenig has been reappointed; her term will expire March 14, 2019.
 - f. Land donation in East Thompson
 - 1) This donation involves two pieces of property – one off of Starr Road and one off of New Road.
 - 2) A site walk with the owner Allan Rawson will be held soon.

- g. Cemeteries Project
 - 1) Carolyn Werge is continuing her work on the Poor Farm Cemetery entry for the website including the narrative.
 - 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. Once she has the exact time, Carolyn Werge will circulate the time to all members; it is scheduled for the afternoon.
 - 3) Norma O'Leary reported that a volunteer has been working on the stone wall at the Whittemore Cemetery.
- h. Other updates
 - 1) The MapGeo application that is available on the town website is not functioning as well as it should; steps to bring the application up to date are being explored.
 - 2) Wyndham Land Trust asked for and received some information from the Conservation office.
 - 3) Carolyn Werge is continuing her assistance with maps for the Thompson Trails Committee.
 - 4) At the last Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, Carolyn Werge provided written testimony in regards to the Aquifer Protection Regulations. This will be on their agenda for next Monday and she plans to attend in case they have any questions.
- i. **Ronald Tillen moved and Norma O'Leary seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the potential conservation of a site in Thompson; the motion carried unanimously.**
 - 1) Harry Coman and Ida Ransom left the room.
 - 2) The members went into executive session at 7:47 PM and came out at 8:05 PM.
 - 3) No action was taken.

Old Business

- 1. Update on previous Conservation reviews: None
- 2. Cemeteries: see the Conservation Officer's Report
- 3. Blue Bird Houses
 - a. Bernie Davis stated that this program will be continued and that he expects the lumber will once again be donated.
- 4. Barn Survey: No progress.
- 5. "Honor Roll" Plaque: No progress.

New Business

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

Public Forum: None

Members' Forum

- 1. Ron Tillen reported that he will be doing a presentation "Saving the Land" on land trusts and their relevance to preserving native habitats; this will be held at the Thompson Public Library on Monday, May 12 at 6:30 PM.
- 2. Bernie Davis announced that the Quinebaug Community College Foundation will host a fundraiser on April 23 with guest speaker Jill Fredston who is an avalanche expert.
- 3. Norma O'Leary announced that the funding for purchase of a lot in River Mill Village to be used for a neighborhood playground has been received. Attorney St. Onge is completing the necessary paperwork.

Announcements: None

Future Meeting

- 1. The next meeting will be held Monday, May 19, 2014 at 7 PM in the Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Adjournment

- 1. Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Ida Ransom
Recording Secretary