



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Conservation
Commission

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Regular Meeting

Monday, August 21, 2023

1st Floor Conference Room at the THOMPSON TOWN HALL:

1. Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order by Judith Rondeau at 7:01 PM.

Present: Judith Rondeau (Chair), Peter Cummins, Carol Smith, Dave Clark, Pat Cheever.

Staff: Dan Malo (Conservation Agent)

Guests:

This meeting was not held via zoom due to technical difficulties.

2. Approval of Minutes – No minutes available to review.

Dave Clark asked if the agenda notes a zoom meeting and technical difficulties prevent hosting a zoom meeting, can a meeting still be held. (Dan Malo) We can continue to hold the meeting just reference the technical error in the minutes.

3. Financial Matters

The new fiscal year started July 1st with a total budget of \$29,686.00. The current available budget is \$25,055.90.

4. Correspondence

a. Members received via email: None

b. Incoming Mail: None

c. Outgoing Mail: None

d. Incoming Mail via email:

- Newsletters

e. Outgoing Mail via email: None

5. Officer and Committee Report

- Round-Up Spraying: Marla Butts has written to the Selectman requesting a policy to address the use of Round-up by the public works for next year. Marla Butts requested the policy should have the following: established areas that need treatment; avoiding inland wetlands, homes and recreation areas; announcement of town webpage on the areas and dates of treatment; process for requesting alternatives and process for address complaints.
- Gravestone Girls: Brenda was here for a recreation commission summer camp program on the 2nd. The new brochures were distributed during this presentation. Norma O'Leary and Dan Malo are trying to establish an ongoing maintenance program to keep the cemetery's maintained.
- North Grosvenordale Burial Site: In 2016, Norma O'Leary spoke with the state archaeology regarding this location. His response was based upon pictures supplied this is a burial site and should be treated as such. The developer is ready to get moving on developing the area with having the site memorialized. Dan Malo provided the town's GIS screen of the area. The developer will be putting in 2-3 homes. There is a conservations easement. There will be a site walk scheduled.
- Ordinance: There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday August 30th to discuss two ordinances that are being proposed. One ordinance is amending the flood prevention ordinance and the second is regarding vacant, abandoned, and tax delinquent properties.

- Little River Watershed Plan: The little river supplies water to towns and has agriculture in the areas. This little river watershed only has a small portion in Thompson. The plan will enhance the quality of the water. There is a meeting scheduled Thursday to discuss the plan.
- Business/Volunteer of the year: The town is accepting nominations through September 11th.
- UConn Presentations: Dan Malo has been asked to speak at UCONN based on his experience with being wetlands and conservation agents.
- Food Forest Project: This is put on by the conservation district project. There is a community garden behind the new TEEG property. It is suggested that a food forest would be in the same area. There is no access to the river at this location. The committee meets monthly, the next meeting is in September.
- Wetlands Agent: Marla Butts is reducing her hours at the office. Dan Malo will work to cover some of her duties. During this transition and consolidation of positions in Thompson, Dan will continue to be the Wetland Agent for Woodstock until they find a replacement.
- MS Word/Spellcheck: The programs are not working correctly on the town computer.

6. Old Business:

- Video – Intro to Connecticut’s Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act
 - Video shown: Chapter 4 – Inland Wetlands Agency Jurisdiction (19:09)
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water/Inland-Wetlands/MIW-Training---Video-1>
 - Thompson’s review areas are anything within 100 feet of a watercourse.
- Discussion 65 Main Agriculture Small Business Support Center and Public Food Forest – through USDA & UAIP grant
 - Discussed previously in Agents Report
 - Sue Wheeler and Judith Rondeau will try to attend the next meeting to see what is required of the conservation commission.

7. New Business:

- North Grosvenordale Pond – Memorialization of Burial Site
 - Discussed previously in Agents Report
 - Dan Malo will contact the property owner for a site walk.
- Long-term Cemetery Maintenance Plan
 - Discussed previously in Agents Report
 - This might be more relevant to the Cemetery Commission.
- Consolidation of Conservation and Wetlands Agent Positions
 - Discussed previously in Agents Report

8. Citizens’ Comments:

- Pat Cheever. Expressed concerns over recent news articles.

9. Members’ Forum:

- Carol Smith. Expressed her concerns & need for additional storage unit locations/application.

10. Announcements:

- Next Meeting is Monday September 18, 2023, at 7pm (hybrid).

11. Meeting adjourned by Judith Rondeau at 8:42 PM.

*Submitted 09/27/2023
Heather J. (Gauthier) Allen
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.