



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Conservation
Commission

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Regular Meeting

Monday, September 18, 2023

1st Floor Conference Room at the THOMPSON TOWN HALL:

1. Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order by Judith Rondeau at 7:07 PM.

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

Staff: Dan Malo (Conservation Agent)

Guests: Amy St. Onge (First Selectman)

2. Approval of Minutes -

- June 20, 2023 - Minutes were not reviewed or approved. See October meeting minutes for approval.
- August 21, 2023 - The minutes were not available.

3. Financial Matters

15.6% of the budget. The current available budget is \$25,055.67. There are line items for salary, training, and supplies.

4. Correspondence

- Training or event notices. Dan Malo has forwarded the information to commission members.

5. Agent Report

- **Round-Up Spraying:** Marla Butts provided her suggestions for the town to develop a policy. The town department of public works is in the process of evaluating the areas. Marla Butts requested suggestions: 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. There is no policy for the use of Round Up in the town.
- **Cemetery Registry/Maintenance:** Dan Malo provided a printout of the registry and what cemeteries have stewards; this is an old list and is in the process of being updated. The grants have provided progress on cleaning the cemetery, but there are more things that can be done. Norma O'Leary expressed an idea to collaborate with other town commissions/organizations to do a yearly cleaning of cemeteries.
- **North Grosvenordale Burial Site:** Dan Malo will suggest some dates to the developer for a site walk.
- **Food Forest Project at 65 Main:** Dan Malo provided the press release that was posted for this project. There is a public meeting on October 4th to provide information and discuss the developers' plans. The forest can be locations for conservation related workshops (rain barrel, pollinators). Torrington CT Conservation Commission has a similar program, Dan Malo provided the habitat newsletter which has the article on page 5. Additional workshop ideas included invasive species education, dam preservation, sustainable and natural alternatives to residential lawn. This is being spearheaded by the town planner.
- **Wetlands Agent:** Dan Malo is working in both the Wetland and Conservation office. The office is open 32 hours a week.
- **Spicer Gas:** The company is open and there are changes from what was proposed to what is built. Dan Malo is asking for as-built drawings to show what was built. This will show the current capacity of the stormwater basin. There needs to be conservation easement marked every 50' feet and those need to be shown on the as built.

6. Old Business:

- Video – Intro to Connecticut’s Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act
 - No video was presented.
- Discussion 65 Main Agriculture Small Business Support Center and Public Food Forest – through USDA & UAIP grant
 - Discussed previously in Agents Report
 - There is a public meeting on October 4th
- Discussion North Grosvenordale Pond – Memorialization of Burial Site
 - Discussed previously in Agents Report
 - This is on the recreational trail behind K of C.
 - Dan Malo to set up a date for the site walk. Proposed dates are September 28; October 6th or 8th in the afternoon.
- Long-term Cemetery Maintenance Plan
 - Discussed previously in Agents Report
 - Cemetery Subcommittee should be reestablished. Norma O’Leary, Judith Rondeau, Dan Malo advised they are interested in this committee.
- Consolidation of Conservation and Wetlands Agent Positions
 - Discussed previously in Agents Report

7. New Business:

8. Citizens’ Comments:

9. Members’ Forum:

- Sue Wheeler. Asked about the new developments (Spicer Gas, Apartments at St. Josephs, Self Storage)

10. Announcements:

- Next Meeting is Monday October 16, 2023, at 7pm (hybrid).
- 9/21/2023 at 6:00 PM - Town of Putnam is having a presentation about the airline trail (hybrid).
- 9/21/2023 at 7:00 PM (zoom) - Capital Region of Council Government has a land use training that will be a hybrid meeting. Registration is required.
- 09/23/2023 at 7:00 PM (zoom) - Beaver presentation by the Audubon Society.
- 09/23/2023 at 10:00 AM - Walktober event in Pomfret. This will be a tour of the gravestone carvers.
- 09/23/2023 at 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM - Thompson Public Library has a book sale on Saturday.
- 09/30/2023 at 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM - Thompson Community.
- 10/27/2023 at 7:00 PM - West Thompson Cemetery “Spooky Walk”
- 11/16/2023 at 7:00 PM (zoom) - Capital Region of Council Government has a land use training that will be a hybrid meeting. Registration is required.
- 11/11/2023 - CACIWC Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference.

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

View the Zoom Recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/xHRVJr3Jf5MKaRKuWvooyX_1FPM0ZUsYSKcC_mvK03ndVSsiWQT2wNTLXbpGe2r.dmnTspsEOEHY9RDo

Passcode: ?nrWNP0J

Submitted 10/01/2023

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.*