



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Conservation Commission

815 Riverside Drive - P.O. Box 899
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255
www.thompsonct.org

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES: Monday, October 16th, 2023 - 7 PM
In the 2nd Floor Conference Room @ THOMPSON TOWN HALL
and via Zoom:

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Norma O'Leary, Vice Chairman at 7:00 PM.

Members present: Norma O'Leary, Dave Clark, Susan Wheeler, Pat Cheever

Staff: Dan Malo (Agent)

Guest: Amy St. Onge (First Selectman).

No members of the public were present

2. Review of Minutes

a. June 20th, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Dave Clark made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 20, 2023. Sue Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

b. August 21st, 2023 – Regular Meeting.

Dave Clark made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 21, 2023 with the following changes: Strike 2-3 homes from the North Grosvenordale burial site, #7 Change Cemetery Commission to Cemetery subcommittee. Sue Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

c. September 18th, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Dave Clark made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 20, 2023. Sue Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Financial Matters

Expended 29 ½ of budget. No expenses listed this month. Training is coming up soon and the cost is \$75.00. Also coming up is renewal of joint membership with the Wetlands Commission.

4. Correspondence

a. 09/27/23, with: First Selectman, re: hunting on Conservation Easement properties.

Discussion took place on whether hunting was allowed on town owned property, and town

owned property with Conservation easements. Dan Malo replied that every deed easement is written differently, however one deed easement was written so vividly prohibiting hunting on that property. Therefore, where can people hunt on town owned property. Amy St. Onge. First Selectman said there are 85 acres behind the transfer station, which already has two hunters on it. The rest of the lots are too small, residential or have Conservation easements. She also said the town is basically out of hunting acreage. Dan Malo said the only time hunting would be allowed on property with Conservation easements was for overpopulation or disease

Dan Malo commented that the Conservation movement in our country was born out of hunters and there is not a lot of opportunity left for public hunting, but there are a lot of clubs around that allow hunting. Dave Clark mentioned another possibility is to limit hunting to bows which are quiet, don't require as much space. Dan suggested reviewing all the conservation easements to see if there is one that supports it. A suggestion was made to post the homeowners land to help avoid trespassing. Norma O'Leary suggested writing an article to remind people they need permission to hunt on private property.

b. 10/03/23, sent: Inquiry to Thomas & Theresa Cleary, re: clearing in Easement area

Sent a letter to Thomas & Theresa Cleary regarding clearing in the easement area and wetlands. No acknowledgement has been received from the Cleary's. Dan will follow up by checking to see if conditions have changed since he wrote the letter and if not then a Notice of Violation on the Wetlands side of the issue.

c. 10/11/23, with: Herb Cortiss, re: illegal hunting on his property

5. Agent Report

Fielding calls about cemeteries and cemetery maintenance, easement list, collection sheets that are going to be passed along to our stewards, and attended the monthly food meeting with Dave Clark, attended the Windham Land Trust Dinner (They want to have 10,000 acres by 2028), and seeking open space grants. No word from the developer for the Lilly Pond Area about picking a date for a site walk. Did a site walk for a Wetlands Application for a solar field and housing behind the water tank this past weekend with his contractor who said he was going to see if he could get a time for a site walk for us. Reviewed Spicer Gas project and requested an as built to verify what has been built. Dan will continue to monitor. No building permit applications have been received for the storage facility or Hilltop Homes on Azud Road.

Established office hours:

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Monday – 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Tuesday – 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Wednesday – 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Thursday – 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Friday – No set hours but will be available by appointment when necessary.

Experiencing email issues and Dan is working with IT to resolve this problem.

6. **Old Business**

- a. Discussion – 65 Main – Small Business Support Center & Public Food Forest – meeting well attended.
- b. Discussion – North Grosvenordale Pond – Memorialization of Burial Site
- c. Discussion – Long-term Cemetery Maintenance Planning
- e. Discussion – Consolidation of Conservation and Wetlands Agent positions

7. **New Business** - None

8. **Citizens' Comments** - None

9. **Members' Forum**

Pat Cheever made a motion to accept the 2024 Conservation Meetings Calendar Dates. Dave Clark seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

10. **Announcements**

- a. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, November 20, 2023 - 7 PM.
- b. Amy St. Onge stated Blain Road is 75% completed and projected to be completed by the end of the month. Design approved by State DOT. The road was widened per request by the Town. The bridge is in fair condition and does need to be replaced in the future but doesn't affect the intersection.

11. **Adjournment**

After the completion of the agenda, the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.

To see/hear the entire meeting via ZOOM, copy and paste the following link into your search bar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/yp65zEKqk61OACFXr7puRY6M1ALC54dljB1I_iUMc-cNORDzd0yHs5NTkmWgiYrO.-SdKV2FPtkBjbZG9

Passcode: jV7#jy?3

Disclaimer: These minutes have not yet been approved by the Inland Wetlands Commission. Please refer to the next meeting's minutes for approval of, and/or amendments to these minutes.

Respectfully submitted, Gloria Harvey, Recording Secretary,

Gloria Harvey