

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

MINUTES—REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Chairman Phil Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Members present: Phil Thomas, Carol Smith, Norma O’Leary and Bernie Davis.

Staff present: Carolyn Werge and Audrey Witkowski.

Approval of Minutes

1. Amendment to Officers and Committee Reports, Item 1.c: change PZC to Planner.
 - a. The Planner has requested Carolyn Werge’s assistance on the aquifer protection regulations for the rewrite of the zoning regulations as the Planner is unfamiliar with the PZC authority in this matter. The PZC already has state approved regulations in place for the public water supply watershed area. The PZC also has statutory authority to protect potential groundwater sources for future use. Carolyn Werge supplied the Planner with her recommendations for incorporating aquifer and groundwater protection into their zoning regulations.
 - b. **Norma O’Leary moved and Bernie Davis seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting as amended. All in favor. The motion carried.**

Financial Matters

1. 54.9% has been used.

Correspondence

- a. Members received via email:
 - 1) Minutes: Conservation Commission, January 21, 2020.
- b. Incoming Mail:
 - 1) A thank you from the CT Audubon Society for the \$35 membership renewal, dated 24 January 2020.
 - 2) Carol Smith’s reappointment to the Commission from the First Selectman with an expiration date of March 15, 2025, dated 5 February 2020.
 - 3) The November/December 2019 edition of Connecticut Wildlife.
- b. Outgoing Mail:
 - 1) Carolyn Werge’s request to the First Selectman for Carol Smith’s reappointment to the Commission, dated 27 January 2020.
- d. Incoming Mail via email:
 - 1) The Quiet Corner Initiative is holding a Winter Wildlife Tracking Workshop on February 22 at the Union Town Hall Community Room, from 9am-1pm, dated 29 January 2020.
 - 2) The CT Land Conservation Council annual conference is March 21, at Wesleyan University, dated 3 February 2020.
- e. Outgoing Mail via email: None.

Officer and Committee Reports

1. Conservation Officer Report
 - a. New Requests: None.
 - b. Old Requests: None.
 - c. Updates:
 - 1) The final draft of the PZC’s zoning regulations have been sent to the Town Counsel for review. The Assessor and the Building department already have some concerns about how the new regulations will affect their departments. They have informed the Planner of their concerns who has passed the information on to the Town Counsel. The proposed zoning regulations do not set a minimum lot size. The commission discussed the various issues that could arise from this.
 - 2) Carolyn Werge has continued to review permits for the Wetlands Officer.

- 3) The deeds for the first two Open Space parcels in the Green Valley Subdivision in Quinebaug have been submitted to the Selectmen to be transferred to the town. Carolyn Werge provided maps of the project with the Open Space parcels and Conservation Easements for the Commission to review. Carolyn Werge has also revised a copy of the Conservation Easement templet with the Town Counsel's modifications and will provide Jason Lavallee of the Green Valley subdivision with a copy.
- 4) Carolyn Werge attended the 2020-2021 budget meeting with the Board of Selectmen on February 3. The only change to the proposed budget was an addition of \$250 for a storage closet to be split between Conservation and Wetlands. The Selectmen have the funds to purchase the GIS software and computer needs.
- 5) Carol Smith has been re-appointed to a 5 year term, expiring 15 March 2025.
- 6) Carolyn Werge attended the FOIA Workshop on January 29 and provided notes and handouts to the Commission.
- 7) Carolyn Werge attended a Girl Scout meeting for a local Brownies troop and gave a presentation on natural and historical resources and how the Conservation Department interacts with other town departments.
- 8) Carolyn Werge requested the \$65 funds to attend the CT Land Conservation Conference on March 21 at Wesleyan University.
 - i. **Bernie Davis moved and Carol Smith seconded the motion to allocate \$65 for Carolyn Werge to attend the CT Land Conservation Conference. All in favor. The motion carried.**

2. Other

Old Business

1. Update on previous Conservation reviews: No update.
2. Blue Bird houses: No update.
3. Fabyan Property with "Honor Roll" marker: No update.
4. Groundwater protection: No update.
5. Neglected Cemetery Grant: No update.

New Business

Citizens' Comments

Members' Forum

1. The Commission discussed recycling at the state level with China not buying the recycled plastic anymore.
2. Norma O'Leary discussed the empty nip bottle problem in town and a money incentive to recycle them.

Announcements

Future Meeting

1. The next meeting will be held Monday, March 16, 2020 at 7 PM in the Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Adjournment

1. Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM.

Audrey Witkowski
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.