

Conservation Commission
PO Box 552, Norfolk CT 06058
Minutes- Regular Meeting
July 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm. In attendance were commission members John Anderson, Shelley Harms, Libby Borden, Susannah Wood, Elizabeth Corrigan, Nash Pradhan, Martha Klein, and member of the public Ed Machowski.

Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to pass the June minutes; June minutes were unanimously approved.

Correspondence

The fee for membership in Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC) has not yet been paid.

Action item: Anderson to request town to pay CACIWC for annual membership.

Budget

There is \$2250 in our budget. Nothing has been spent this fiscal year yet; there are large Norway maples to remove from Buttermilk Falls Park still.

Old Business

Town Hall Path

Community Association meeting happened last week; they are willing to work on path. There is no landscaping plan yet. The plan will be presented to First Selectman Matt Riiska. The idea is to first remove invasive plants, then plant with natives, and create a rain garden. Ideally, the path will have a permeable surface.

Meeting occurred this week about the whole downtown: there was a discussion of how this path plan fits into larger plan, and who will coordinate. Matt is coordinating between different town entities that are involved in POCD and plan for downtown. The Community Association can provide some funding. Removal of large invasive trees is probably primary.

Road Salt Issues

Ed Machowski provided an informational presentation on how to use the water tester that was procured by Wood. He has calibrated it for conductivity and pH. The tester operates simply: use the on/off button. Device tests for conductivity and pH. Both will vary by temperature.

Conductivity is a proxy for salinity.

How to sample: we can put the probe directly in the river. Using other containers may contain contaminants, although Ed considers the amount of contamination minimal. Therefore we can take sample in a container after rinsing the container a few times with river water OR sample directly in river. Immerse enough to cover probes at base. Best time for testing is summer/ low flow periods

Ed works for the DEEP Fisheries Division. There are many years of data on 19 Norfolk rivers. DEEP measures many sites in Norfolk: they test water chemistry from lakes, ponds, and rivers. **Our rivers and lakes are getting “saltier” according to DEEP data.**

Ed discussed the CT Eco-Fish map. DEEP will shortly be adding water chemistry to the map. In addition, insect and fish community data can be found on this map. He will share this data with us. Once we see which water bodies DEEP has monitored, we will decide where to monitor, so we don't duplicate testing sites. We can record our data on an Excel spread sheet. It is necessary to periodically calibrate machine for pH.

Status of City Meadow Erosion

Invasive plants were not removed on slope bank. Phragmites is returning and is to be re-treated.

Town Invasive Plant Disposal Possibilities

Discussion deferred

Town Invasive Plant Map

Map is up at the hub. We need a small table to put the cards and pins on, with return card box., as well as informational materials.

Botelle School Wet Meadow

The wet meadow wasn't mowed last year. There are many sprouting willows there; two species of willows of special concern are now sprouting in the wet meadow. Anderson marked these to protect from mowing; he will mow a trail in late summer.

Sign base will cost \$130; a motion was made to approve and seconded. Motion to obtain sign base and incorporate sign passed unanimously. We will have a field trip to the wet meadow to see rare plants.

Review of and Planning for 2018 Activities

Harms and Wood had an informal work day by removing Norway maples and burning bush from Buttermilk Falls Park. The Conservation Commission July 22 work day is cancelled. Next work day will be when we have native plants to plant.

We agreed to cancel the regular August meeting and resume on Sep. 19. **Action Item:** Klein will send a notice to Town Clerk re: cancellation of August meeting.

We agreed to have a Special Meeting/ Field Trip on July 23 at 5pm; we will meet at Botelle School parking lot, walk the Wet Meadow, then head to City Meadow. **Action Item:** Klein will send notice to Town Clerk re: special meeting/field trip.

Discussion of New Business was deferred.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

Minutes submitted on August 2, 2018 by
Martha Klein, secretary