Sherman Conservation Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 14, 2018
Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Bill McCann, Patricia Bailey, M. LaVia, J. Motsinger, and R. Martin

Absent: Joanna Wozniak- Brown, and Colette Shulman

Also Present: Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

Call to Order:
Chairman B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

J. Motsinger Moved to Approve the Minutes of September 12, 2018 as amended, (Under American Chestnut Program, change name from Jack Sthal to Swatt).
Seconded by: R. Martin  Vote: For: Unanimous

J. Motsinger Moved to Approve the Minutes of October 10, 2018 as amended  (Under: Right to Farm, change P. Bailey to C. Shulman. Under: Weed Warriors, change …stated that he has not “yet” to “met”. Under: Air Monitoring, add: already exist in CT will Not be. Under: American Chestnut Program, change name from Jack Sthal to Swatt).
Seconded by: M. LaVia  Vote: For: Unanimous

Correspondence-

The Habitat- CACIWC’s 41st Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference November 17, 2018.

New Business -

GMO White Paper- The Race for Our Lives

The Commission discussed C. Shulman’s article regarding climate change. Discussion followed, agreeing climate change is far more of a threat than initially thought. Commission discussed possible solutions including aggressive monitoring of air toxicities.

Old Business-

Air Monitoring Update-

The Commission discussed air monitors that were installed at the Kent School and satellites installed in Washington and Cornwall. The Commission discussed looking into possible locations for a satellite in Sherman. Chair B. McCann stated he spoke to First Selectman D. Lowe who expressed interest and stated he would present it at the next BoS meeting seeking their full support. The final vote of support would require a Town Meeting. Discussion followed regarding the need to raise funds to purchase the monitoring equipment.

Right to Farm-

The Commission discussed creating a “Right to Farm Ordinance” for Sherman. J. Motsinger suggested reaching out to the group that created the ordinance for New Milford. The Commission discussed using what other area Towns have already put together. P. Bailey agreed to create a draft to present at the next meeting.
Weed Warriors-
Chair McCann stated he met with ZEO R. Cooper and discussed a possible program for the future at Veteran’s Field. Mr. Cooper will be contacting First Light initially and will put Bill in contact with their staff. Bill stated he will contact Park & Rec to present the program for approval. R. Cooper did say that permits were necessary for the wetland restricted areas. B. McCann stated he will be presenting the proposal to the IWWC for approval. The target date for this event will be in the spring.

American Chestnut Program-
The Commission discussed possible locations as well as details to prepare the area for planting the saplings. Chair McCann stated he would approach C. Hagadorn to see if the CT Audubon, Deer Pond Conservation would be interested in hosting a site. The Commission agreed to have Jack Swatt present this proposal to the Board of Selectman. A date shall be set at a later meeting. Commissioners M. LaVia and B. McCann agreed to meet at Veteran’s Field to walk the property and determine a suitable area for the chestnut orchard.

Adjournment- P. Bailey Adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Christine Branson, Commission Clerk
November 30, 2018