Sherman Conservation Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 14, 2019
Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Bill McCann, Patricia Bailey, Colette Shulman, M. LaVia, and R. Martin
Absent: J. Motsinger
Also Present: Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

Call to Order: Chairman B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:
Approval was tabled to the next Meeting.

Correspondence-
First Light- Len Green, Housatonic River Project Fund, Grant Award letter for $3,500.00.

New Business –
First Light HRP Grant-
Chair, W. McCann read the grant award letter into record, the amount of the grant is $3,500.00. The Commission agreed this funding shall be used to pay for an environmental consultant to create a long term remediation plan to present to the IWWC to obtain the proper permits to remove the invasives and plant appropriate native plants in their place. The remainder of the funding will be utilized to purchase equipment and tools to assist in the removal invasive plants.

Equipment Research-
M. LaVia was tasked to research a few pieces of equipment and price compare with local businesses to determine recommendations. Mr. LaVia researched backpack a flamethrower and determined the cost would be approximately $ 300 - $ 350 with attachments. Mr. LaVia also researched Trimmers at approximately $ 250 - $300 and a weed wrench. The remainder of funds left after the purchase of equipment and cost of an invasive species mitigation plan design shall go toward fuel for the back pack and trimmer as well as purchase of plants that are native and will thrive in the mitigated areas. Mr. LaVia will inquire with the Fire Department to see if any permits shall be required to use the weed torch.

W. McCann Moved to Approve M. LaVia the authority to create a purchase order for a backpack weed torch, trimmer, weed wrench and native plantings.
Seconded by: C. Shulman
Vote: For: Unanimous

Annual Report Review-
W. McCann presented the 2018-19 Annual Report to the Commission, outlining the events and progress throughout this past year. The Commission agreed to submit the report to the Board of Selectmen.

Next Project:
Cluster Zoning- the Commission discussed protecting open space and the possibility of recommending that the Planning and Zoning Commission consider Cluster Zoning. Chair W. McCann stated he will reach out to the Zoning Department to see what has been proposed in the past.

Conservation Corner- discussion points for new articles to be submitted to the newspaper.

Protected & Endangered Species Map- compare with what already exists.
Old Business-

**Air Monitoring Update**-

Chair, McCann stated the equipment has been successfully installed approximately three weeks ago. The data has not been accessed as of yet.

**American Chestnut Program**-

Chair, McCann stated that he has been in discussion with the Sherman Audubon program Director K. Haggadorn and American Chestnut Program Director J. Swatt. Mr. Swatt has indicated the research program will be put on hold temporarily. This discussion shall be revisited once there is follow up regarding the new research practice.

**Right to Farm Ordinance**-

Chair, McCann stated the Board of Selectmen did not have this as an Agenda item for their August meeting. Hopefully they will include this in the September Meeting for discussion.

**Invasive Species Brochures**-

Wm. McCann stated that the Commission has run out of the flyers that were printed last year. A new batch will need to be ordered.

Adjournment-  

P. Bailey Adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Christine Branson, Commission Clerk  
August 21, 2019  
APPROVED AS AMENDED AT THE OCTOBER 9, 2019 RMM.