Conservation Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 13, 2021
Mallory Town Hall (via ZOOM), 7:00 PM

Members Present: Bill McCann, M. McKinnon, R. Martin, Patricia Bailey, and C. Shulman (joined at 7:19 pm)

Absent: M. LaVia

Also Present: Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:13p.m.

   P. Bailey Moved to add to the Agenda: in 6. New Business, item b.) - FY 21-22 Budget discussion and possible approval and amend the 2021 Schedule of Meeting Dates to the second Wednesday.

   Seconded by: M. McKinnon

   Vote: For: Unanimous

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

   Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2020

   M. McKinnion Moved to Approve the Minutes of December 9, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting as written.

   Seconded by: R. Martin

   Vote: For: Unanimous

3. CORRESPONDENCE: None

4. OLD BUSINESS:

   a.) Pollinator Pathway Research Update

   Chair B. McCann reported there was no new news. He hopes to get onto the field within the next three months as spring arrives to look for the best area to propose a plan for the garden. The Commission discussed meeting in a group once the snow melts to view possible areas for the garden and create a plan to remove the invasive plants in March.

   b.) Veteran’s Field IWWC Application Update

   Chair B. McCann reported the IWWC meets next week. They have determined the majority of the area where the Pollinator Garden is being considered falls below the 440 line and is in fact under the control of First Light. IWWC has recommended the Commission reach out to B. Woods to seek written approval of the proposed garden plan. Mr. McCann did reach out to B. Wood and ZEO R. Cooper as to the best way to proceed. Mr. Cooper stated the Town P&R Department already holds a permit on that land to allow improvements to that specific area, it may be possible to simply request permission to modify their existing plan. B. McCann reached out to the IWWC Clerk and requested the Conservation Commission proposal plan be sent to B. Woods of First Light for review. Mr. McCann along with J. Main plan to attend the next IWWC Meeting to submit a rough plan and schedule for approval of the Town owned portion of the land. Next month, B. McCann plans to schedule a meeting with First Selectman D. Lowe and Public Works Director, D. Borkowsky to discuss how they can all work along with the Conservation Commission
Commission to get the land ready for the next steps of action. Mr. McCann stated he will put together a plan for the Weed Warriors event late spring.

c.) Proposed Cell Tower Meeting Review

Chair B. McCann reported he was told IWWC has requested a report from Homeland Towers. Mr. McCann stated he will reach out to get feedback from First Selectman D. Lowe. M. McKinnon reported she saw 14 property owners were contacted who own elevated property in Sherman.

d.) WCCAA/ Cricket Valley Update

R. Martin reported he received a letter of updates regarding the sensor problems. The sensor installed in Kent is working and receiving results in the winter is critical. Linda Frank, WCCAA Chair is seeking help and has reached out to several Town’s Commissions. Discussion followed regarding availability. R. Martin stated he will reach out to Linda and see if he can offer any support.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Approval of 2021 Schedule of Meeting Dates

R. Martin Moved to Approve the 2021 proposed Schedule of Meeting Dates. Seconded by: P. Bailey Vote: For: Unanimous

b.) FY 21-22 Budget discussion and possible approval

C. Shulman Moved to keep the 2021-22 FY Budget Request flat at $1,900.00 (no increase). Seconded by: M. McKinnon Vote: For: Unanimous

Adjournment

R. Martin Adjourned the Meeting at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Christine Branson, Commission Clerk
January 20, 2021