Conservation Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
Mallory Town Hall (via ZOOM), 7:00 PM

Members Present: Bill McCann, M. McKinnon, C. Shulman, R. Martin and Patricia Bailey

Absent: M. LaVia

Also Present: Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

Call to Order: Chairman B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:11 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: None

Correspondence: None

OLD BUSINESS:

a.) Veteran’s Field Project Update
Chair B. McCann reported a status update of the proposed IWWC permit, he has received a document from them and it stated ZEO R. Cooper and Director of Public Works D. Borkowski will coordinate project oversite. P&R Director F. Frattini reached out to B. Woods of First Light to see if their current P&R permit could be modified to allow the proposed work of the Conservation Commission to create the pollinator garden since it is on the Town’s P&R property. B. McCann is waiting to hear back from B. Woods and / or F. Frattini for approval status. The Commission discussed a loose plan of action to reduce the amount of invasive plants by cutting twice the first year and placing tarps covered with wood chips for the first year. The second year poke holes and plant native plants. The tarps can be removed after approximately 4 years. At the next meeting a plan will be discussed regarding pollinator friendly planting suggestions and removal of invasive species plan.

c.) WCCAA Update
B. McCann reported at their last meeting and two follow up emails he was told the sensors are still being repaired and will require re-callibrating before being installed again. Hopefully will be complete and ready to re-install in Sherman by late March. Discussion followed regarding the length of time this process has taken, the sensors stopped working back in August. The Commission was hopeful that an extension of service would be offered since the repairs have taken much longer than anticipated.

NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Proposed Cell Tower at Coote Hill
Chair, McCann reached out to First Selectman D. Lowe and was advised of a balloon test coming up. B. McCann reported to the First Selectman that the Conservation Commission planned on writing a letter to the CT Siting Council sharing environmental concerns. B. McCann reached out to the CT Siting Council and was told there was no application from Sherman yet, Homeland Towers was still in the negotiation process with the landowner. C. Shulman discussed the history of Lake Mauweehoo briefly and stated she felt including the history along with the Conservation letter would be very beneficial. Mr. McCann stated that the history and aesthetics would be included
and added that the focus of the Commission would largely be that of environmental and habitat concerns. Discussion followed regarding concerns over wastewater/stormwater controls, number of trees proposed to be removed creating erosion problems to the environment. Mr. McCann was told by the Siting Council that, until an application is received, to hold off on sending any correspondence to them.

b.) **Earth Day Program at Library**

M. McKinnon reached out to Director A. Blake to request consideration of co-sponsoring a program with the Conservation Commission. Possibilities of topics were discussed by the Commission. The consensus of the Commission was to hold an event focusing on native pollinator plant gardening and protection of native bee populations. M. McKinnon stated she would reach out to Peter Picone to check his availability. B. McCann stated he would reach out to the Library Director to discuss options and dates.

c.) **Senior Housing**

Chair, B. McCann read First Selectman D. Lowes article in the newspaper and Commissioner P. Bailey’s email regarding the discussion of 4 acre zoning. M. McKinnon reported the Housing Commission has proposed a Senior Community Complex which is a plan showing approximately 10 units with the ground floor as retail/office space and the second floor being available as 1,800 square foot condominiums for Senior Housing. Discussion followed regarding the feasibility of finding land suitable and whether this style housing would be fitting with Shermans rural character.

d.) **Farm Day Discussion**

Chair McCann stated he spoke to resident farmer, D. Jellen and he would like to hold a community outreach event. He has lots of great ideas and would like to attend the next meeting to share with the Commission.

e.) **Conservation Corner newspaper articles**

C. Shulman reported she has submitted two articles so far and is looking to the other Commissioners for their contributions. B. McCann stated he will submit an article regarding the Weed Warrior Programs. P. Bailey stated she would submit an article in May regarding tic awareness. C. Shulman stated in the future she will submit an article regarding the culture of animals.

**Adjournment**

C. Shulman Adjourned the Meeting at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Christine Branson, Commission Clerk
February 17, 2021