Conservation Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 PM

Members Present: Bill McCann, M. MsKinnon, M. LaVia, C. Shulman, and Patricia Bailey

Absent: R. Martin

Audience and Invited: None

Also Present: Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

Call to Order: Chairman B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: None

Correspondence: None

Old Business:

Invasives at Veteran’s Field
M. McKinnon reported she reached out to Fran Fratinni at Parks & Rec, she has been in touch with Brian Wood from First Light, he explained the procedure for applying. There is a fee of $150.00, plus a $350.00 mpermit fee. Fran Fratinni will fill out the form and Liz (Business Admin.) will be contacted to pay the fees out of them Conservation Commission Budget. B. McCann contacted ZEO R. Cooper, and was told he forwarded the recommendations to IWWC. Bill has set up a meeting with Don Lowe, First Selectman, Don Borkowski, Highway Department, and M. LaVia from the Highway Department to discuss the area proposed for the pollinator garden. The consensus is to spend unused funds after paying for the survey and consultant on plants or seeds.

C. Shulman Moved to approve the expenditure of $500.00 out of the Conservation Commission Budget to pay for permit fees for an application to First Light for proposed activities on Veteran’s Field.

Seconded by: M. LaVia

Vote: For: Unanimous

WCCAA Update:
The units are being calibrated again and there is nothing new to report.

Cricket Valley Update: None

Proposed Coote Hill Road Cell Tower Site-
B McCann reached out to Ron Cooper who was called by the North West Conservatio District seeking input regarding possible environmental impact related to the implementation of the tower. Ron shared concerns, however has not seen any report which was requested of AT&T/ Homeland Tower since February. Ron stated he would query IWWC and the P&Z Commissions for input. Bill stated he would be compiling a report of concerns with the Conservatin Commission, Ron agreed to compile a report of concerns based upon his expertise. The consensus of the Commission is not to stop any cell tower proposal, however to bring attention to possible environmental
concerns impacting the site area. Discussion continued regarding a possible request for an independent impact study of the property but the property owner would need to consent. Bill stated he will make minor edits to the report and share with the Commissioners for final approval before submitting the final report the Siting Council on the 16th.

Concerns discussed were:
- Number of proposed removal of trees
- Intense erosion
- Damage to waterways and waterbodies

(Rolf Martin joined the Meeting at 7:25pm)

**Deer Pond Farms Webinar**
M. McKinnon attended the webinar, she stated the focus was primarily on vernal pools, populations of breeding amphibians and the cross travel between pools within the lifecycles. Vernal pools do not count as wetlands interestingly.

**Happy Acres Update:**
David Jellen was unable to attend but hopes to attend next month to share report.

**Adjournment**
C. Shulman Adjourned the Meeting at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted:

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Christine Branson, Commission Clerk
March 17, 2021