Conservation Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 12, 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

Audience and Invited: Stan Greenbaum

Also Present: Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

Call to Order: Chairman B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:09 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: None

Correspondence: None

NEW BUSINESS:

a.) Request from First Selectman to Withdraw Comments from Siting Council

The Commission discussed the request of the First Selectman to withdraw the comments submitted to the CT Siting Council. Chair McCann requested the consensus of the Commission regarding the request. Discussion followed, the Commission felt if they were to withdraw it would give the Commission no credibility. The Commission still has the same concerns and the efforts spent compiling the report was time well spent. The Siting Council has received the report and they have all seen the concerns of the Commission. Mr. Greenbaum was invited to share information he was able to gather from different sources regarding statistics from AT&T and the existing tower in Pawling NY. Funds have been collected by a private group to pay for a radio frequency specialist to conduct a study of the Southern end of Sherman to analyze what can be done to improve cell connectivity to the Southern end of Sherman. Mr. Greenbaum stated he believed AT&T responded with inadequate and incorrect information in 2016 when this site was under consideration. He reported technical details, regarding a possible antenna placed in New Fairfield could reduce the height requirement at the Coote Hill site and still increase coverage within the area. Mr. Greenbaum shared concerns that the Coote Hill proposed site may be unsuccessful without additional antenna placement. Mr. Greenbaum referenced several sites considered at Wagon Wheel Road. Chair McCann asked if the Wagon Wheel sites were those that were considered back in 2013? To wrap up the discussion, Chair McCann stated he felt the request of the First Selectman was inappropriate, especially after he praised the efforts of the Conservation Commission for compiling the report. Mr. McCann stated he intends for the Commission to continue to do their due diligence when it comes to protecting the land and environment within the Town of Sherman. Mr. Greenbaum mentioned details regarding a few other sites that were once considered by AT&T, at Hadlow Farms. Mr. Greenbaum stated the NCLC was concerned about the clear cutting of trees if the Hadlow Farm site was considered. Chair McCann stated he was contacted by Paul from NCLC, and they said they too were intending to submit an impact report regarding concerns about the proposed Coote Hill site. Mr. McCann reached out to the CT Siting Council regarding the possible withdrawal of the report, Ms. Bachman stated the whole Council has seen the report and the Siting Council shared many of the same concerns, redacting the report would not be successful since it has already been seen. Mr. McCann stated he intends to submit a follow up report to the Siting Council and intends to keep the report filed. Mr. Greenbaum stated he submitted a request to submit a report of commentary regarding insufficiencies he believes are within AT&T’s proposal regarding many aspects, one of which being a fence that shall be surveyed daily by a herpetologist. The Commission reiterated they were not against the proposal
of the tower, but were still very concerned regarding the potential environmental impacts. The following Motion was made;

**M. McKinnon made a Motion** to not withdraw the Conservation Commission’s report sent to the CT Siting Council regarding the environmental impact concerns of the proposed Coote Hill Site per the request of the First Selectman.

**Seconded by: R. Martin**  
**Vote: For: Unanimous**

b.) **Pollinator Garden Planning**
M. McKinnon reported she was unable to get to the garden this week but proposed a group of the Commissioners possibly gather on a Saturday or Sunday morning to brainstorm and determine the exact area and size of the pollinator garden. M. McKinnon stated she spoke to P&R Director F. Fratinni and she has offered the help of the Boy Scouts when needed. Discussion followed regarding the procedure and planting schedule ahead. Mr. Greenbaum offered woodchips if needed. C. Shulman offered cardboard she has stored as well.

c.) **Farm Day Discussion**
Chair McCann stated he spoke to resident farmer, D. Jellen and he is very enthusiastic about offering several attractions for the proposed Farm Day event, such as a milking demo, barn and garden tours, animals; chickens, pigs, cows, sheep, hay rides and equipment demos and possibly an antique equipment display. Mr. Jellen is coordinating with local farmers and restauranteers to participate as well. More details to come B. McCann stated he will reach out to the First Selectman to see what is required by the Town such as Constibles, parking, portable toilets etc. C. Shulman stated Mr. Jellen will put together a Facebook event soon announcing the event to peak interest once a date has been ironed out.

OLD BUSINESS:

a.) **Earth Day Program at the Library**
M. McKinnon reported the co sponsored event between the Library and Conservation Commission was a great success with 31 attendees on ZOOM to listen to speaker Peter Picone discuss Wildlife and Habitat links for songbirds, hummingbirds and beneficial insects. There are hopes to hold additional events before the years end, M. McKinnon will follow up with the Director to find out availability of dates in the future.

b.) **Veteran’s Field Project Update**
Chair B. McCann reported a status update of the proposed work permit, to date the permit has not been approved. P&R Director F. Frattini suggested Mr. McCann reach out to B. Woods of First Light directly to request a status of the permit. B. McCann is waiting to announce the next Weed Warriors program upon the approval of this permit and the weeds are approaching 4 feet in height. The invasive program needs to take place very soon, however the Town needs formal approval from First Light to do so. B. McCann hopes to have better news to report by the next meeting.

c.) **WCCAA Update**
Discussion was tabled, there is nothing new to report.

Adjournment  
C. Shulman Adjourned the Meeting at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Branson, Commission Clerk  
March 17, 2021