Conservation Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 13, 2019
Mallory Town Hall, 7:00 PM

DRAFT

Members Present: Bill McCann, R. Martin, M. LaVia, C. Shulman, Patricia Bailey, and J. Motsinger
Absent: J. Wozniak-Brown

Audience and Invited: None

Also Present: Christine Branson, Commission Clerk

Call to Order: Chairman B. McCann Called the Meeting to Order at 7:19 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: None

Correspondence:

- Email from CT Conservation- Urging municipalities to act upon HB-5254 to impose a 1% conveyance fee for open space
- Aquarion Water- Seeking nominations for 2019 Environmental Champions recognition.

New Business:

Right to Farm Ordinance:
Chair, B. McCann has reached out to the CT Farm Bureau and sent a draft version for review. Several paragraphs were recommended to be deleted. This simplified version was shared with the Commission. Discussion followed referencing 4 or 5 other towns’ versions of the “Dispute Resolutions” portion of the ordinance. The Commission agreed on several revisions. Mr. McCann stated he would apply the changes and bring the draft to the April Meeting for final approval.

NRI & Conservation Corner Columns:
Three weeks ago the first article was submitted along with several photographs. B. McCann stated he has not seen anything published in the paper yet. Moving forward, Mr. McCann stated he would like to see at least six articles submitted from the Commission members. Mr. McCann stated the Commissioners could write on behalf of the Commission or as an individual.

CT Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound:
The Commission discussed an article regarding HB-7298 which is believed to undermine environmental protections. Discussion took place regarding a visit on March 15th by Julie Cushner, the Commission agreed that it might be a good idea to create a liaison with Ms. Cushner or her staff for advice on items coming before legislation.

Old Business:

Air Monitoring Update:
P. Bailey discussed an article in the Danbury News-Times with the headline: EPA finds CT pollution falls” showing Danbury at a 23% increase, and Bridgeport at a 90% decrease and Middletown at an increase at 54%. New Haven is at a decrease. Chair, McCann reported that two out of three of the monitoring components are operational at the Kent School. Sherman, New Milford, Kent, Washington and Cornwall are on board with implementing monitoring systems. Mr. McCann reported he was unsure when the equipment will be delivered to Sherman. Mr. McCann stated he will be meeting with Mr. Mallory and Mr. Benjamin to find a good location.
C. Schulman discussed an article that she shared with the Commission entitled, “Grown-ups Get a Scolding on Climate”. Ms. Schulman suggested an evening of brainstorming at her house to discuss safeguarding the future environment. Date to be determined.

**Chestnut Orchard Visit:**

Chair B. McCann reported he is planning a meeting with Jack Swatt from the American Chestnut Program and Cathy Haggadorn from CT Audubon at the Deer Pond Farm to seek out a viable location for a proposed chestnut grove.

**Weed Warriors Update:**

Chair, B. McCann stated he spoke at length with B. Wood from First Light. Mr. McCann spoke of developing a long term plan to address invasive plants. The Commission discussed various ideas for programming and bringing awareness to the community over the last several meetings. Mr. McCann proposed the application for funding through First Light be a long term plan to purchase equipment, hand tools, and plantings to replace the invasives with. Also discussed was to come up with a comprehensive plan to present to the IWWC Commission. The deadline to submit is April 1, 2019.

**Public Comment**- No one was present to speak.

**Adjournment**

P. Bailey Moved to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:25 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Christine Branson, Commission Clerk
April 10, 2018