



**Town of Sherman  
Conservation Commission**

Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 10, 2022  
Mallory Town Hall @ 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** William (Bill) McCann (Chair), Rolf Martin, Colette Shulman, Anne Weisberg

**Members Absent:** Michele MacKinnon (Vice Chair), Michael LaVia, Lauren Weber

Other Attendees: Christine Aruza (Clerk)

**Call to Order:** Chairman B. McCann called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Anne Weisberg made a motion to approve the minutes

Seconded by: R. Martin

Vote: Unanimous For

**Correspondence:**

No new correspondence.

**New Business:**

**Support Letter for LAFAB**

B. McCann spoke with first selectman Don Lowe regarding the Conservation Commission's position, which supports the continuance of the Sherman Land Acquisition Fund Advisory Board (LAFAB). Per B. McCann, D. Lowe is hesitant to continue LAFAB but is open to further discussion on the matter.

A. Weisberg inquired if there is money in the fund at this juncture. McCann believes if there is it is negligible (less than \$10k). A. Weisberg queried if American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies could be allocated to the fund. She proposed that instead of allocating a percentage of town revenue on a yearly basis to the fund, perhaps ARPA monies could be earmarked as an endowment for this purpose and accrue over time.

B. McCann then read the draft letter to the commissioners for review and comment. Commission members provided further edits with respect to:

- I. Language on the purpose of funding LAFAB as it relates to preserving open space in Sherman specifically
- II. Recommendation to consider alternative funding sources (e.g., usage of ARPA monies)
- III. The order of next steps that should be undertaken
- IV. How to best coordinate with existing LAFAB members (which are drawn from each Sherman land use commission and the board of selectman) as well as the Naromi Council of the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC)
- V. The scope of work the Conservation Commission can commit to

B. McCann and C. Shulman discussed the 2006-2007 survey conducted by Sherman's LAFAB and Conservation Commission. It was the first online survey in Sherman and evidenced Sherman residents' desire to preserve the rural nature of the town.

Discussion then shifted to the results of the recent Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) survey issued by Sherman's Planning & Zoning Commission. Several respondents to the survey raised the issue of preserving barns and stonewalls in the comments section. R. Martin remarked that many people in town associate these barns with the rural character of the town which they love. He inquired as to what extent the preservation of these barns falls within the purview of the Conservation Commission. Per B. McCann the Conservation Commission does have a mandate to preserve open space as it relates to the protection of ecosystems and habitats. Agriculture, as such, falls within the protection area of the commission. However, barns on private lands that are not engaged for agricultural purposes do not fall within that purview. As it pertains to stone walls, there is a Sherman ordinance for town-designated scenic roads which stipulates rules for the preservation of historic stone walls.

### **Weed Warrior July 30<sup>th</sup> Session Update**

According to B. McCann there were seven volunteers who came out for the July 30<sup>th</sup> Weed Warriors session. The group accomplished the second cut on the invasives at Veteran's Field. There was less regrowth to the areas that had been cut last year. There will be another cut at the end of August or the beginning of September. At that juncture, it will be determined what areas need to be covered such as those that had Japanese knotweed.

## **Farm Day 2022 Event**

B. McCann spoke to D. Lowe regarding establishing a date for the annual Farm Day at Happy Acres. Per D. Lowe, David Jellen set the date for the event as September, 24, 2022 and is actively seeking volunteers. A. Weisberg will reach out to D. Jellen to discuss additional information to pen an article promoting the event in the commission's 'Conservation Corner' in the local newspaper. B. McCann will also update the ad for the event that typically goes in the paper and share with D. Jellen and A. Weisberg.

C. Shulman requested information regarding potential vendors for this year's event. B. McCann indicated that he knew that Kimberly Farms from New Milford is committed at this point.

## **Native Species Policy Recommendation Update**

According to B. McCann he spoke to D. Lowe regarding the native species policy recommendation. D. Lowe did not receive it and requested that B. McCann resend which he did. C. Shulman requested that B. McCann circulate the final draft of the recommended policy to the commission members. A. Weisberg will draft an article to promote the policy and send to B. McCann for review.

## **Old Business:**

C. Shulman provided an update to the commission on discussions held at the last board of selectmen (BOS) meeting regarding the proposed senior housing complex and proposed, new senior center. C. Shulman wants the commission to confer via phone prior to the next BOS meeting on the matter.

## **Adjournment**

**A Weisberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting**

**Seconded by: R. Martin**

**Vote: Unanimous For**

**B. McCann adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza  
Next meeting: Wednesday, September 14, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m., Mallory Town Hall

