



**Town of Sherman**  
**Conservation Commission**  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 14, 2022  
Mallory Town Hall @ 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** William (Bill) McCann (Chair), Rolf Martin, Colette Shulman, Lauren Weber

**Members Absent:** Michele MacKinnon (Vice Chair), Michael LaVia, Anne Weisberg

Other Attendees: Christine Aruza (Clerk)

**Call to Order:** Chairman B. McCann called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**R. Martin made a motion** to approve the minutes

**Seconded by:** C. Shulman

**Vote:** Unanimous For

**Correspondence:**

No new correspondence.

**New Business:**

**POCD Chapter Submission Discussion**

B. McCann received a call from Jeannene Burrmano (Vice Chair, Planning & Zoning Commission). She said P&Z discussed the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) chapter that needs to be replaced and what they require from the Conservation Commission. P&Z reviewed the chapter and believe that the list of recommendations from the Conservation Commission's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) of 2018 would be a suitable replacement albeit with modifications to bring it up to date.

C. Shulman inquired if there are other recommendations that are being proposed for inclusion in the whole POCD. Per L. Weber (an alternate commissioner on P&Z) each section of the POCD was assigned to individual reviewers on the P&Z commission. Existing recommendations in the POCD were evaluated to determine if they were up to date and/or if they had been completed and could therefore be removed. Conservation Commission discussion then centered on how the existing POCD chapter on Open Space would be handled moving forward and the need to seek further clarification.

L. Weber indicated that P&Z does have a deadline for completion of the POCD and would like to have part one ready by October and the final version ready at the beginning of the new year. Their preference is to have the Conservation Commission's revised chapter by P&Z's next meeting. B. McCann will connect with J. B. Burruano to verify. He emphasized that the list of recommendations from the NRI were categorized according to topics that matched individual chapters of the POCD and therefore would require rewriting for reference coherence in the new POCD. Commission members then conducted a working session to discuss individual recommendations from the NRI and how they could be modified.

R. Martin voiced concern that certain recommendations from the NRI have not been enacted yet such as protecting vernal pools which are important centers of ecosystem activity. He queried if there could be some manner in which to ensure recommendations were implemented. B. McCann suggested that a statement be included stipulating that:

- a) Recommendations would be reviewed annually.
- b) Resources should be made available for their execution.
- c) The completion status of each recommendation should be documented.

Currently, the responsibility for executing recommendations is dispersed among several departments and commissions. The aforementioned guidelines could assist in the prioritization of executing recommendations and could also identify areas where there are insufficient resources to perform them.

C. Shulman proposed convening a separate, special Conservation Commission workshop session to continue modifying, eliminating or enhancing recommendations for the updated POCD. She indicated some recommendations would require additional research (e.g., septic monitoring) and suggested assigning research to individuals in advance of the session. R. Martin suggested written and documented citations/references for research notes as supporting corroboration. The commission agreed in principle to proceed in this manner and hold a special session, if necessary, after B. McCann obtains clarification from J. Burruano on outstanding chapter questions and the actual submission deadline.

### **Weed Warrior – Next Session September 17<sup>th</sup>**

Per B. McCann the next session will be this Saturday, September 17th. It is the third session this season. The next cut will not be big, however, he stated he would like to also cover the area with ground cloth and spread mulch during the same session. He is not sure if there will be enough volunteers to do all three tasks and therefore there may need to be a fourth session. B. McCann advised he would like to double the cloth on the area that was done last year. This should help

slow the re-growth of Japanese knotweed which is still coming up through six inches of wood chips and garden fabric. It takes approximately 4-5 years to kill Japanese knotweed by cutting it every season. He is not sure if the Conservation Commission will do a fall planting for the proposed Pollinator Garden but intends to expand the footprint this weekend for a spring planting.

### **Farm Day Event on September 24th**

C. Shulman asked if there is a need for volunteers for Farm Day, September 24th. B. McCann stated he would be there directing traffic. He also shared that he spoke with David Jellen who advised he had people to help with setting up/breaking down. There will be music performances, Old Oak Tavern and Kimberly Farm food stations, hayrides, petting pens, the pumpkin patch and they are adding face painting for the kids this year. Per B. McCann ads have been placed in the town paper and A. Weisberg is writing an article for the paper. Flyers and signs have also been distributed throughout town.

### **Doug Tallamy Presentation Scheduled for Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>**

The Doug Tallamy presentation is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>. There are four sponsors for the event: the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC), the Sherman Library, Deer Pond Farm (Connecticut Audubon Society), and the Conservation Commission. There will be a \$5 cover charge for attendees. A. Weisberg's article on Farm Day mentions the Tallamy event and she will write another, dedicated article about the event for the paper. The event is not presently listed on any of the sponsor sites. B. McCann to check with M. MacKinnon regarding the overall promotional push.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Native Species Policy Recommendation Update**

B. McCann advised that the commission's recommended native species policy was addressed at the last Board of Selectman (BOS) meeting. There was a discussion about the policy but a decision had to be pushed to the next BOS meeting due to the lack of a quorum. First selectman Don Lowe expressed concern that it not be an ordinance. B. McCann emphasized that it is only a policy and further offered that a native plant policy will help enable Sherman to become a Bee City if it chooses to pursue this designation. B. McCann will be at the next BOS meeting to address follow-on questions that may arise.

#### **Support Letter for LAFAB Update**

C. Shulman inquired if B. McCann had delivered the letter regarding the commission's recommendations concerning reactivation of Sherman's Land Acquisition Fund Advisory Board (LAFAB) to D. Lowe. Per B. McCann the letter is drafted but has not been submitted. It will be submitted after the decision is made on the native plant policy.

B. McCann did some research about the possible allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the LAFAB, which was proposed at the last commission meeting. He advised this type of allocation unfortunately does not fall within ARPA guidelines. That will be removed from the letter. C. Shulman noted it might be better regardless if it was tied to a more permanent funding source.

**Adjournment**

**R. Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting**

**Seconded by: L. Weber**

**Vote: Unanimous For**

**B. McCann adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza  
Next meeting: Wednesday, October 12, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m., Mallory Town Hall