



**Town of Sherman  
Conservation Commission**

Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 12, 2022  
Mallory Town Hall @ 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** William (Bill) McCann (Chair), Michael LaVia, Colette Shulman, Anne Weisberg

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

Other Attendees: Christine Aruza (Clerk)

**Call to Order:** Chairman B. McCann called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

C. Shulman made a motion to approve the minutes

Seconded by: M. LaVia

Vote: Unanimous For

**Correspondence:**

No new correspondence.

**New Business:**

**CACIWC Conference 10/29**

Per B. McCann and A. Weisberg, they are unable to attend this year's Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission's (CACIWC) conference. C. Shulman suggested that the commissioners review the agenda and determine which panels would be relevant for the commission to attend. C. Shulman will attend if another commissioner will also join. B. McCann will send an email to those unable to make this evening's meeting to review the conference's sessions and indicate if they would like to attend.

According to B. McCann the commission has paid its annual dues to the CACIWC. The town will reimburse the commissioners for the conference fee. There are a number of sessions that would be of value including: vernal pools, renewed threats to hemlocks, pollinators in the backyard, etc.

### **Energy Conservation – CT Green Bank Discussion**

A. Weisberg would like the CT Green Bank to deliver a presentation to the town about the services they provide. This would be especially valuable as winter approaches and people are thinking about their heating bills and how to reduce them. The CT Green Bank was the first green bank in the country – started in 2011. It is a quasi-public agency that assists with favorable financing for energy efficiency including solar panel installations and heat pumps. If you sign up through one of their providers they will come and do a complimentary energy audit for your home and provide a plan on how to reduce energy cost. A. Weisberg believes given the current focus on climate change it would be informative for town residents. She has been trying to get in touch with their presentation team. C. Shulman inquired if the CT Green Bank provides subsidies. According to A. Weisberg, they don't give subsidies, however, they can help with financing. She added that Eversource in CT is required to buy back excess solar power unless the homeowner has a means to store the power, which can also help reduce costs. She further shared that there will be a federal green bank that will funnel money from the Inflation Reduction Act to individual state green banks. A. Weisberg will continue to reach out them.

### **Doug Tallamy, Farm Day and Weed Warrior Events Recap**

- I. The Doug Tallamy online presentation, “The Nature of Oaks”, was very successful with 95 attendees. The recording of the session is now available on the commission’s page on the town website. This event was co-sponsored by the commission, the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC), Deer Pond, and the Sherman Library.
- II. C. Shulman indicated that David Jellen was pleased with the turnout (over 300 people) for Farm Day and the positive coverage in the *Sherman Sentinel*.
- III. There was a small team for the last Weed Warrior session, however, they were able to complete the last cut. Next steps this season (before the winter) will involve covering the area with an impervious layer (instead of fabric) and then adding a layer of wood chips to continue combatting the Japanese knotweed. This will allow the group’s focus to shift to other areas/invasives next year. B. McCann will submit a grant request to First Light Power Resources for 2023 to help subsidize these efforts and future plantings as was done in 2022. There has been an existing plan to put three trees behind the backstop area at Veteran’s field. One of those trees will be dedicated with a plaque to Rolf Martin.

A. Weisberg inquired as to the status of the municipal native plant policy. According to B. McCann the policy was discussed at the last Board of Selectman (BOS) meeting. His expectation is that it will be approved and posted at Public Works. M. LaVia sought clarification on what constitutes a ‘native plant’ as the definition varies, has changed or has been misconstrued over time. He wants to ensure that the guidance is clear. B. McCann shared that a specific, sanctioned definition and resources are provided as reference in the policy. C. Shulman also offered that decisions on what to plant could be made in consultation with the commission.

**Old Business:**

**POCD Chapter Workshop**

The commission conducted a working session on changes to the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) chapter requested by the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z). The final draft POCD will be sent by P&Z to an outside consulting service for review and feedback. Once finalized it will be presented to the town for input. P&Z, therefore, has requested the updated chapter from the commission by early November in order to meet their overall deadline.

**Adjournment**

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

**Seconded by: c. Shulman**

**Vote: Unanimous For**

**B. McCann adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza  
Next meeting: Wednesday, November 9, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m., Mallory Town Hall