



Town of Sherman
Conservation Commission
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Mallory Town Hall @ 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: William (Bill) McCann (Chair), Colette Shulman, Lauren Weber, Anne Weisberg

Members Absent: Michele MacKinnon (Vice Chair), Jen Freed

Other Attendees: Christine Aruza (Clerk)

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

Approval of Minutes:

A. Weisberg made a motion to approve the minutes

Seconded by: B. McCann

Vote: Unanimous For

Correspondence:

B. McCann advised that he received two voice mails for the commission. The first voice mail was from Fran Frattini, Chairman of Sherman's Parks and Recreation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to create an informational kiosk at Munch Meadow and inquired if the Conservation Commission would be interested in assisting. The town purchased Munch Meadow as open space via the Sherman Land Acquisition Fund Advisory Board (LAFAB) in 2006.

The second voice mail was from David Jellen (Manager, Happy Acres Farm) also regarding Munch Meadow. He was touring town owned properties with Kris Fazzone (Supervisor, Public Works Department) and Don Lowe (First Selectman) to assess what he could hay for the farm and asked if he could hay Munch Meadow. Discussion ensued about the request with the commission agreeing to allow him to hay the meadow once a year, potentially in the fall. B. McCann will advise D. Jellen of the commission's decision.

New Business:

Town of Sherman Cleanup Day – April 22

Per A. Weisberg, she was approached by Elizabeth Schrang (Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy) regarding Sherman's annual Earth Day community cleanup day on April 22nd. She was looking for information about the initiative. A. Weisberg spoke to D. Lowe about it as it is typically organized through Town Hall. He asked if the commission could help the town organize some aspects of the event this year. B. McCann will call D. Lowe to ascertain what help he is seeking and update the commission via email with specifics.

Final Plans for Jim Sirch Talk, April 22

B. McCann brought in the large format print of the photography composition, 'Butterflies of Sherman'. The print will be displayed at the Jim Sirch talk, 'Plant It and They Will Come: Attracting Connecticut Butterflies to Your Yard' on April 22nd at 2:00 p.m. at the Sherman Library. The talk is the commission's spring program (co-hosted with the library) in support of Earth Day 2023. Program attendees will be encouraged to try their hand at identifying each butterfly. B. McCann also provided an answer key. A. Weisberg will bring the print to the program at the library.

Categories for SCC Articles on Web

No further action on this item. L. Weber will prepare the categories for the next meeting.

Sherman Green Fair Planning Continued

Commission discussion turned to additional planning for the Green Fair slated for May 6th, between 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sherman Town Green. Topics addressed included: parking area designations; assigning spaces to participating organizations; identifying signage/banners that need to be produced for the event; the provision of additional informational hand-outs (e.g., the CT Invasive Plants booklet, Weed Warriors sign-up and materials from organizations who wished to attend but were unable) as well as other remaining logistics.

Pollinator Garden Planting May 20

Per B. McCann this agenda item is to serve as a reminder for the commission that initial planting for the pollinator garden will take place on May 20th adjacent to Veteran's Field.

Old Business:

C. Shulman asked B. McCann if he saw the Western Connecticut Clean Air Action (WCCAA) note concerning Phase 2 planning with respect to the Cricket Valley Energy Center. Cricket

Valley's permit is up for renewal. He indicated he had seen the item. Per C. Shulman the commission needs to respond. B. McCann inquired if the energy plant had made the change over to green hydrogen utilization to reduce carbon emissions. C. Shulman did not know and additionally advised that there is more of a recognition about the reported dangers of burning methane in the first 20 years that makes it almost worse than burning wood or coal. B. McCann advised he would read up on the matter, determine what possible actions are required and coordinate with C. Shulman on the commission's response.

Adjournment

A. Weisberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting

Seconded by: L. Weber

Vote: Unanimous For

B. McCann adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza
Next monthly meeting: Wednesday, May 10, 2023, @ 7:00 p.m., Mallory Town Hall