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TOWN CLERK

Stafford Conservation Commission minutes

Date: Sunday, March 12, 2017

Regular scheduled meeting

Place: Warren Memorial town hall

1. Call to order/pledge. 9:40 AM.
2. Jen Arpin., Brian Zawodniak, Mike Macko, Steve Munn, Kitty Schooley, Paul Pearson and Arlene Avery.
Brian made a motion to accept meeting minutes of January 4, 2017; Jennie seconded it.
Motion carried unanimously.
3. Budget report. We have used \$1,228.74 of the \$1983 allocated by the town budget. We have \$754.26 that need to be spent by June 30, 2017, or it returns to the general fund. Kitty noting that Trail & Signs line item wasn't updated for sign made at the high school.
4. Arlene will research conservation ordinance and report at next meeting.
Steve submitted his resignation as Treasurer for the Commission.
Steve nominated Jen Arpin for Treasurer for the Commission. Arlene seconded the nomination.
Commission members voted unanimously for Jen Arpin as treasurer. Jen accepted.

Steve made motion to open a seat of Vice Chair on the Board, Paul seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously. Members will consider a candidate at an upcoming meeting.

Paul suggested identifying panel stewards for the four town properties. The role of the stewards allows the individual to thoughtfully evaluate current conditions (grooming, erosion and potential environmental threats to assess and prioritize intervention. Mike concurred.

Property Stewards are as follows: DENNIS POND TRAIL - Jen Arpin & Paul Pearson; PINNEY SCHOOL ROAD property proposed trail – Steven Munn; WEST STAFFORD TRAIL – Mike Macko and the WOODLAWN TRAIL – Brian Zawodniak

5. North Central Conservation District: report by Arlene Avery.

Arlene reached out to Joanna Shapiro, Executive Director Vernon Office. It is noted that Stafford is 1 of 30 member towns that is involved with the Conservation district.

NCCD – What services are available to Stafford – Arlene briefly reviewed benefits. Stafford is perhaps the largest land mass member in the district. The District provides recommendations concerning various individual residence issues (due to privacy issues, we cannot be made aware of individuals in town using their services). The District is available to provide conservation and natural resource suggestions involving planting, eradicating invasive species and viable options for town land use. It appears that the town of Stafford underutilizes the full

resources of the District. The District could be sought after as an impartial body to recommend complimentary land use around Dennis Pond.

Arlene will follow-up with a NCCD contact to provide us an impartial study of the Dennis Pond area.

- CACIWC – no report; Arlene to report next time
- CT Forest and Parks Assoc—no report, Arlene to report next time.

6. Grant proposals – No grant activity.

- Trail bridges both at Woodlawn and Dennis Pond only involve labor.
- Photography Bird blinds – Paul to pursue specifications and cost.

7. EARTH DAY Saturday, April 22. Rain date April 23

- a. Conservation Commission daytime plans "CLEAN-UP" at the West Stafford location. Conservation Commission will provide lunch; large sign needs to be restored. Possibility of an education talk was discussed

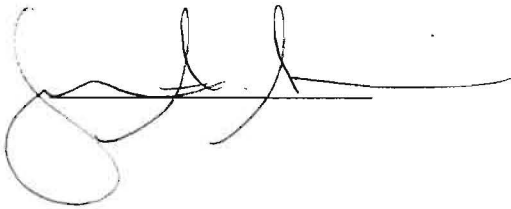
8. Trails and signs reports

- a. 2017 Connecticut Trails Day Event
 - i. Events is FREE, open to the public, will take place on Saturday, June 3 or Sunday, June 4, 2016
 - ii. Jen Arpin will handle event submissions to CT Forest and Parks Assoc. by May 15, 2017 so that our event is included in the enhanced, comprehensive 2017 CT Trails Day online directory of events
 - iii. Jen Arpin is lead for trail day which will take place at West Stafford trail.
- b. Kitty presented the new "end-of-trail" sign for Beaver Trail at Dennis Pond – Mike suggesting that it be posted high on a tree. Suggestion made to look into the assessor's office for Dennis Pond boundary. Possible signs—tick education / POOP BAGS containers needed for other trail locations (poop bag container at Dennis Pond is kept filled).
- c. WEST STAFFORD TRAIL – see above for Earthday "CLEAN- UP".
- d. WOODLAWN TRAIL /signs update – Trail plaques are logistically positioned at the start. Brian reported that the trails signs are seemingly in good locations.
- e. DENNIS POND Trails/signs updates
 - i. End-of-trail sign/educational sign – complete; needs to be installed.
 - ii. Paul to make connection with land owner.
- f. PINNEY SCHOOL ROAD TRAIL -
 - i. On hold—Kitty went to the selectmen who want plans on 1) parking 2) restricting ATVs
 - ii. Trail upkeep- Steve volunteer to upkeep. Steve to approach the First Selectmen regarding use. Steve, who is a frequent visitor to this property and village area, will evaluate conditions and upcoming trail concerns / needs including signage. North Central Conservation District could

potentially assist plans for development. Matching grant for development may be available.

8. Old business.
 - a. Updates on repurposing Dennis Pond bridge materials to accessible-to-all fishing dock (Paul Pearson reporting). Hardware materials are still necessary. Will reach out to Stafford High teacher, Mr. Michalak
 - b. Additional old business Paul – Update contact page.
9. New business. Park stewards. Jen has contacted Town website technical support via the town clerk's office to update the Conservation page and for correct meeting hours and place.
10. Appreciation
11. 11:00 AM Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.