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STAFFORD, CT

2018 MAY 10 P 6:00

## Stafford Conservation Commission minutes

*[Signature]*  
TOWN CLERK

Date: Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Special meeting

Time: 6:10 PM

Place: Stafford Community Center, Green Room

1. Call to order/pledge/attendance: K. Schooley, V. Halloran, J. Greene, P. Pearson and A. Avery; A. Halloran seated by chair for Brian Zawodniak.
2. James motioned to accept minutes to last meeting as filed. Paul seconded it. Arlene abstained; otherwise carried unanimously.
3. Budget review (Jen): Arlene motioned to move \$40 from dues and fees line item (20-380-6100) to misc. programming (20-380-3995). Veronica seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Correspondence (Kitty)
  - a. CT River Conservancy: no interest in supporting.
  - b. Emails - Kitty will forward to members of the SCC with incoming emails to do with Conservation activities and discussions.
  - c. Concerning The Last Green Valley's Earth Month & River Cleanups funding, James will research and make a presentation/proposal next meeting.
5. Events
  - a. Earth Day/ National Arbor Day post mortem – see attachment A.
  - b. CT Forest & Parks Trails Day June 2 & 3, 2018 (Jen). All is ready for June 2<sup>nd</sup> (rain date 3<sup>rd</sup>) Woodlawn trail. Commission members are encouraged to come and support Jen.
  - c. Fishing Derby July 2018 – Will work with Jen on narrowing down the date.
  - d. Farm Day September 2018 – normally the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of September.
6. Stafford disc golf committee
  - a. Updates: Activities Survey – Arlene. Many respondents reported interest in bike lanes, community gardening and more hiking trails. School grounds inspection occurred this past Monday. The location offers good potential.
7. Trails and Signs
  - a. Dennis Pond (Paul)
    - i. Hydro-raking solution to vegetation overgrowth: basically a backhoe on a barge. The hydro-rake can operate in water as shallow as 1.0 -1.5 feet and can remove nuisance vegetation and bottom debris from water depths ranging from 18 inches to 10 feet.
    - ii. Paul reported Mary Mitta emailed that she and her husband are enjoying the trails at Dennis Pond.
  - b. Valley Cotton Mill Trails on Penney School Road development – Veronica visited and reported several possible ways this could be developed including dog agility trail, personal fitness trail, picnic area, ADA trail, etc. Also, possible fishing dock.
  - c. West Stafford Conservation Area (Mike or Ingrid)- Tabled
  - d. Woodlawn Trail (Brian) Veronica to reach out to Brian to ask if trail maintenance needed prior to CT Trails Day Celebration. Possible activity to engage Service Corps.

8. Old business

- a. Wheelchair accessible fishing dock at Dennis Pond
  - i. Commission will support Boy Scout as an Eagle Scout project
  - ii. Commission will redirect Industrial Arts teacher to Riverside Pond (aka Mill Pond in Stafford Hollow) for an accessible dock there. He can use any research and/or work done to date; would also be possible to engage TTM for funding. Veronica will communicate decision to him.
- b. North Central Conservation District report – Alonna said they expressed regret they were not available for Earth Day Event and is waiting to hear from them for more information.
- c. Town building recycle audit James knew of similar projects in MA. He was unable to gain info for a similar business or non-profit that would audit town recycling.

9. Public Comment:

Boy Scouts interested in Eagle Scouts projects:

Matthew Griffith - proposing the accessible fishing dock with bench

Bruce Gaudet (attends Chenney Tech and studies carpentry) - accessible ramp to the gazebo, moving rocks and adding a bench


Both Scouts have fathers who are engineers; one has a sister studying engineering at college—so would have adequate support.

Both Scouts would be entirely responsible for projects including: meeting with the town selectmen, town engineer and Inland Wetlands commission; they will obtain permits necessary; they do all funding-raising necessary. Eagle Scout projects have a record of generous discounts and donations. They are looking to complete the project within the year. The Commission has agreed to allow the Eagle Scouts to go ahead with their project, and they will keep the Conservation Commission chair updated with developments.

Stafford Conservation Commission has potential lumber that could be repurposed, a sign and some funds collected at Earth Day Event to donate if their projects are approved.

10. Adjourn: Alonna motioned to adjourn; Arlene seconded; carried unanimously. Adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



# Earth Day Event 2018 Post-Mortem

## **What we did right (the good)**

- Advertised
- Got vendors
- Once things started, progressed smoothly
- Networking achieved
- News coverage, interest from local/state politicians
- Set up ahead of time: official photographer, MC, trail guides
- Maps, programs ready
- Got Funding for accessible fishing dock
- Made a celebration, not just “clean-up”
- Put the ribbon up the day before (and it stayed up)

## **What we can do better (the bad)**

- Start planning earlier
- Make sure we have a useable pop-up/ez-up
- Large events (50 or more) engage CERT for parking, traffic control, help direct trailer into driveway, etc.
- Arrange for shuttle from town hall parking lot
- How do we determine how many will show?
- How do we know how much food needed?
- SCC set up earlier—ensure our station is good to go (SCC there 1 hour before)
- Before any other activities (surveys, donations solicited, etc.) make sure SCC set up
- Get permission to use driveway earlier
- Bring more paper weights!
- Arrange trash pick up
- Determine how to get accurate count of attendees
- Use “Party for the Planet” (like the title)
- Ask for raffle and or food donations from vendors

## **The beautiful**

- Dennis Pond
- Conservation Commission is 12 strong with members and alternates
- We meet regularly with quorum showing
- We have awesome events