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Town of Vernon
Conservation Commission Meeting
Monday, April 21, 2014
7:00 pm
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, 14 Park Place
Rockville/Vernon, CT

MINUTES

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Tom Ouellette.
Commissioners present were C. Ryan Goad, H. Russell Kunz. Commissioner Logan Senack arrived at 7:02 P.M. Mr. Shaun Gately, Acting Town Planner was present. Also attending was guest Karl Prewo of the Friends of Bolton Lakes.

2. Administrative Actions

A. Acceptance of Minutes of the March 17, 2014

A motion was made by Commissioner Ryan Goad and seconded by Commissioner Russell Kunz to accept the minutes as amended.

B. Communication Received

Chairman Tom Ouellette informed the Commission that Commissioner Melissa Kracke has resigned. Protocol was discussed and Commissioner Kracke needs to send a letter to the Conservation Commission through Mr. Gately.

A letter from Aquarion dated April 3, 2014 was discussed and the Commission had decided previously not to participate this year.

- C. Application related correspondence: IWC and PZC applications
Mr. Gately reported that an application for wetlands redesignation with non-significant activity within a regulated area located on Hartford Turnpike will be presented for review at the next Commission meeting.

- D. Letters sent by Conservation Commission last month
No letters were sent by the Conservation Commission last month.

- E. Organizational Considerations
There were no organizational consideration

3. Continuing Business

- A. Invasive aquatic plants and lakes management and

- B. Bolton Lakes Issues

Mr. Prewo reported on both Agenda Items A and B concerning invasive aquatic plants and lakes management and Bolton Lake issues. He discussed the health of the white cedar trees, the resource impact of the culverts between Upper and Middle Bolton Lakes, and the potential replacement of the culverts. He stated that Joshua's Trust owns property on the upper lake which may benefit preservation and protection of the white cedar forest. He noted the suggestion of Joshua's Trust that adjacent property owners get together in the future to discuss the forest property on the upper lake. Mr. Prewo stated that the watershed Conservation Commissions have a long term goal of sustaining the lakes. He reported that the Friends of Bolton Lakes are organizing volunteers to assist in monitoring the lakes to assist with watershed management planning, and to identify invasive aquatic plant species. Water sampling is being funded by a grant to the Town of Bolton for water quality control in Lower Bolton Lake. He also stated that they are trying to

convince the State of Connecticut not to stock Lower Bolton Lake with channel catfish.

Mr. Prewo reported that he attended the annual meeting of the Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL) on April 16, 2014 with approximately forty to forty-five members present. Discussion was held concerning blue/green algae and the need to develop a protocol on how to evaluate the water and make decisions on how to correct the problem. Chuck Lee from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection stated at the CFL meeting that DEEP has a rapid response services contract which can be used by the towns. Mr. Prewo noted that a conference will be held on June 13 and 14 by the New England Association of Lakes Management which will be open to the public.

Ann Letendre will be addressing the BLWCA on May 6, regarding the Tankerhoosen River Watershed Management Plan. On June 3, George Knoecklein will discuss the water quality of the Bolton Lakes as indicated by his observations to date. Commissioner Ouellette stated that the ERT report will be released this week.

C. Open Space Program

Commissioner Ouellette reported that the Strong Farm Family Trust has expressed renewed interest in agricultural preservation of their property.

D. Intertown Collaboration

Commissioner Senack has been in contact with the Manchester Conservation Commission, but nothing has been planned as of this date. It was suggested that there be a "meet and greet" at Valley Falls.

E. Vernal Pools

Commissioner Ouellette reported that the inspection of the Bamforth Road potential vernal pools has been postponed until next year.

F. Earth Day

Commissioner Ouellette reported that it was too late to plan an Earth Day celebration this year.

4. New Business

There was a discussion about proposed Senate Bill 405 which relates to elimination of public hearings for subdivision proposals.

A motion was made Commissioner Ouellette and seconded by Commission Goad that a letter be sent stating that the Commission is opposed to this Senate Bill .

Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Ouellette will draft a letter to be reviewed by the Commission regarding Senate Bill 405 prior to being sent.

5. Other Goals

Commissioner Goad reported that there will be an AMC walk on the Tulip Tree Trail May 17, 2014.

6. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Goad and seconded by Commissioner Senack to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 P.M. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy A. Jackle

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