

Killingly Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 16, 2015

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

Roll Call: Donna Bronwell, Shane White, Ralph Chartier, Sharon Fekete. Absent with notice: Carol Wood, Andrea Truppa, Bonni Piccione. Others present: Eric Rumsey, staff; Ed Grandelski, council liaison; Adam Griffiths.

Citizens Participation: Adam Griffiths, steward of the Quandoc Conservation Area was present and identified himself.

Minutes: August 19, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes – Add: Adam Griffiths present in Roll Call; Add: Adam Griffiths introduced discussion regarding the Scenic Road Ordinance. Shane motion, Ralph second, all approved as corrected.

Business:

1. **Driving Tours of Back Roads “Undiscovered Killingly”** – The commission received rave reviews from participants of the first driving tour. The second tour is this Saturday at 9:00 AM. Donna and town historian, Maggie Weaver have created a brochure with a map created by Shane. The commission reviewed the proposed brochure and made several edits. There will be a second tour along the same route September 26th.
2. **Walktober Event – October 11, 2015** – The walk will be held at the Mason Hill property at 106 Mason Hill Road (Walk number 84). Ralph mentioned that he was at the property looking for additional parking. If the side of the road was mowed, there would be room for additional parking along Mason Hill Road. Additionally, parking could be found along the parking area if it were brush hogged. Eric will ask Travis about getting the parking area brush hogged. The kiosk could use some minor repairs and paint or stain. Sharon motion to suspend the rules, Shane second; all approved. A street map showing a potential route from the Mason Hill property to the stone house, River Road, etc. will be created for the brochure. The commission will walk the property Sunday, October 4th at 1 PM. Two members of the commission will help people park cars prior to the event. Donna will email a to-do list.
3. **Open Space Brochures** – The commission passed out many of the open space brochures at the Tomato Festival. The commission came to a consensus as to who would drop off the brochures at various places throughout town.
4. **Town Open Space / Inventory of Potential Properties for Open Space Preservation – Added funding available** – Donna reviewed State Bill 347 which allows for more funding for open space land acquisition. The bill allows for 100% of the purchase price or maintenance costs could be covered by open space grants. Currently grants may not exceed 65% of the fair market value of land (75% in distressed communities such as Killingly). Also noted was an email that was sent today stating that there is open space grant funding available with applications due February 2nd, 2016. Shane read the three provisions within the bill to be able to utilize 100% of grant funding to obtain open space.
5. **Signs for Conservation Areas** – Eric will check on the status of the signs.

6. **Chairperson Updates** – Andrea Truppa an alternate has decided to not re-apply to be on the commission. Adam spoke on the Tomato Festival and the potential of the Conservation Commission having a float in the parade. Eric reported on the status of the Cat Hollow Bridge project. The land transfer should be going through soon as the Association now owns the property in question. Donna gave updates on various projects including the Agriculture Commission, Trainings, and the Five Ponds.
7. **Staff Report** – Tabled.

Correspondence to the Commission – As submitted

Other – Volunteer tracking time was passed around and submitted.

Town Council Liaison – Ed Grandelski reported that Carol Wood was reappointed to the Conservation Commission, Frank Anastasio was reappointed to the Agriculture Commission. Ed reported on budgetary transfers from the Conservation Commission, Wetland Commission, and Agriculture Commission to the Open Space Land Acquisition fund. Several projects have been sent to the Permanent Building Commission for their review.

Adjournment – Ralph motion, Shane second, All approved. 8:53 PM