

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2010**

- a. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were: Lois Query (Vice-Chair), Don DiGenova, Cynthia MacDonald, Richard Symonds, and Dorothy Mickiewicz. Others present: Eric Grulke, Boy Scout, Troop 2; Linda Farmer; Ken Hankinson. Not in attendance: Phil Moreschi, Eugene Koss, Andrew Holl.

- b. Additions to the Agenda

The following additions were made to the agenda:

Mr. Symonds moved to seat Ms. Mickiewicz as a voting member and this was seconded by Ms. MacDonald.

2. Public Comments

- a. Comments for the public – 2 minutes - None

- b. Boy Scouts

- Troop 2, Tolland – invasive plants – 5 minutes

Erik Grulke from Troop 2 in Tolland attended the meeting and presented the Commission with an outline for the Auperin project. He also handed a copy of the outline to Ms. Query. Mr. Grulke has proposed starting on Saturday, April 18, 2010. Mr. Hankinson flagged the trail and he and Mr. Grulke walked the trail together. Mr. Grulke will clear and blaze the trail, construct a bridge over the stream and place a bench at the marsh. Mr. Query inquired if the issue of the well on the property would be addressed. Mr. Hankinson explained that the trail is not near the well but that the well should be covered with a 6'x6' grate pinned to the ground. Ms. Query asked Mr. Hankinson to review Mr. Grulke's outline and Mr. Hankinson agreed to do so as well as to supervise the project.

Mr. Symonds moved to accept the plan of Boy Scout Troop 2 as represented by Mr. Grulke. Ms. MacDonald seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mr. Grulke had further questions on other projects provided to him in the e-mail list. The first question was regarding repairing the dam and researching the history of the property identified as item 2. Mr. Symonds clarified that this would not be "rebuilding" but a general cleanup of the debris and invasive plants. It would not involve any changes to the waterway. Ms. Farmer indicated that this project should be reviewed by Mr. Lowrey and Mr. Symonds stated that he would communicate with him regarding this on Monday and will email Mr. Grulke with any updates.

Mr. Grulke also had questions on the project involving the Newcomb Brook at the King Property, specifically regarding the size of the bridge indicated. Mr. Hankinson explained this would be a 20-24' bridge with a center support. Mr. Symonds offered to assist with the design if anyone is interested in the project and the Commission will present this to Mr. Moreschi for review.

Mr. Grulke also asked about the size of the bridge to be built at the Cloughs' Brook and Mr. Hankinson explained that that brook is seasonal and would

need a bridge 6-8' in length.

Lastly, Mr. Grulke inquired as to the project to clean the ponds and dams at the Saffron property. Mr. Hankinson explained that there is some debris to be cleaned and due to the amount of silt and mud it would ideally be a winter project.

In summary, Mr. Hankinson explained that the project at the Auperin property would be the first priority, then the pond cleaning and lastly the Newcomb Brook at the King property if a trail system could be built that would allow it to be connected to other Conservation properties.

- Troop 61, Mansfield – bluebird project

Mr. Hankinson explained that Mr. Jacques is presently constructing the bluebird houses and that they would most likely be installed over the coming weekend. Mr. Hankinson visited Sage Meadow, King and the Campbell properties with Mr. Jacques and suggested that these three properties be the focal point. The project will include a review of how and when the birdhouses are used noting the direction of placement, type of mounting and if the bluebirds do not use the houses which creatures do.

Mr. Symonds moved to formally approve the project of installing bluebird boxes at the Campbell property. Ms. MacDonald seconded the motion and all were in favor.

3. Approval of Minutes – March 11, 2010

Ms. Mickiewicz motioned to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2010 meeting. Mr. Symonds seconded the motion. All were in favor. The opportunity for discussion was presented and it was concluded that there were not be any changes to the minutes.

4. Committee Reports

a. 83.3 acre Luce Property – DEP Open Space Grant

- Approve Resolution

Ms. Farmer distributed and reviewed the “Resolution for 83.3 Acres Luce Property” to the Commission. The grant is due May 3rd. Mr. Symonds motioned to approve the Resolution and that the Conservation Commission Secretary, Mr. DiGenova be authorized to sign for the Commission. Ms. Query seconded this motion. All were in favor. Mr. DiGenova signed the Resolution at 8:10 p.m. and it was returned to Ms. Farmer.

- Letter of Support

Ms. Farmer will email Mr. Moreschi to request that he write the letter previously discussed. Mr. Symonds volunteered that, if needed, the Commission could produce the letter as well.

- Commission ratings

Ms. Query explained that the Commission had originally agreed to complete the rating sheets first but then it was voted that the rating sheets would be done after the plans were in place. A committee can be formed to re-do the rating sheets if needed. Ms. MacDonald suggested listing working on the rating sheets as the first item on the Commission’s workshop agenda (workshop to be held April 22, 2010). Mr. DiGenova agreed that the Commission hasn’t had the opportunity to revisit this and that it is time to do so. Mr. Symonds explained that the ratings were a series of columns that indicate whether or not what is proposed is meeting the objectives previously

defined. Sheets will need to be done for the following properties: Auperin, Palmer and Sage Meadow. He will review the template for the workshop

b. Website Additions and Update

Ms. MacDonald submitted information sheets for the Children's Day event to Mr. Holl requesting that they be uploaded to the website in lieu of providing handouts at the event. Further discussion will take place at the Commission's workshop.

c. Invasive Species Committee Report

• Children's Day Event

Ms. Query explained that the Committee has met and that Ms. MacDonald has done an outstanding job with this project. Ms. MacDonald communicated that she has redesigned the maze to reduce the number of stakes that would be needed and that Mr. DiGenova has donated a recycled plastic pool cover. She purchased eighteen 6' stakes but will still need the Town stakes as well. Mr. Symonds commented that she would most likely need the Town's twenty stakes on May 5th.

Ms. MacDonald explained the Commission has received a generous donation of plant material for the raffle and that information will be available on the day of the event. Ms. Donna Ellis and Mr. Holl will get the basket for the winner of the children's maze. Set-up for the event will take place on May 7th and Mr. Hankinson volunteered his assistance as well. Ms. Query noted that the children will receive a sheet after completing the maze that is designed for them to be able to identify invasive species in their own yards.

d. Unfinished Management Plans

Mr. Symonds explained that plans for the Auperin property went to workshop and that changes had been made in July 2009. On the third page of the document under "management plan and program" the following should be added, "construct and maintain bridge". He will also add "protect well site hazard". Ms. Mickiewicz requested copies of the plans and Mr. Symonds will ask Ms. Murdock to make the changes and send the revised plan out to all of the Commission members. Further, he explained that the Sage Meadow and Palmer plans are on hold.

Ms. MacDonald requested that the list of pre-approved projects for groups such as the Scouts be made available. Mr. Symonds will send this list to the members

d. Willimantic River Alliance – update

• Walktober event at King Property

Ms. MacDonald explained that the WRA is having an open house on April 28, 2010 at Willington Pizza, 6-8pm. Discussion will take place regarding the trails and she would like to send an e-mail blast out to the community.

Ms. MacDonald confirmed that the King property would be a part of the Walktober event and the walk will be led by Maxine Cole. The King property will be the culmination of a three property walk. Ms. MacDonald will complete an official form for use of the property to prevent any conflicts on that date.

f. Tolland Conservation Corps

During the work session of April 24th at the Parciak property Mr. Hankinson hopes to finish the loop and ridge trail. Additionally, he noted that the Schindler/Schmidt parking lot is open and dry. The Knofla property is still a bit of a quagmire and will be

left chained off for a bit. Mr. Hankinson also inquired as to any plans for a grand opening of the Knofla property and suggested an autumn event when the leaves are changing to showcase the property. Mr. Symonds would like to see signage in place first and Ms. MacDonald asked about the drainage issue. Mr. Hankinson will keep an eye on it and believes that once the gravel is down that that should resolve the issue. Ms. Mickiewicz inquired if a parking lot would be needed at Knofla and Mr. Hankinson agreed that at some point there could be several cars and that indeed the street could become tight if people start parking on both sides.

5. Old Business - None

6. New Business

- Nye-Holman State Forest Management Plan

Mr. Symonds explained that about a month ago Mr. Moreschi circulated the Nye-Holman management plan which provides a history of the property, the family and the management process but was unaware of the intent of this being on the agenda. Ms. MacDonald stated that this should be tabled.

- Bolton Lakes ERT meeting

Ms. Query stated that this should be tabled.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Symonds motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 9:03 p.m. and that the clerk be paid. Ms. Mickiewicz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk