

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2009**

1. Call to Order

A. Attendance - Seat alternate member, if necessary. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were: Phil Moreschi (Chair) Lois Query, (Vice-Chair), Cynthia MacDonald, Richard Symonds. Andrew Holl arrived at 8:05PM and Eugene Koss arrived at 7:44 p.m. Others present were: Ken Hankinson of the Tolland Conservation Corps, Linda Farmer, Director of Planning & Community Development, and a Scout from Troop 2 in Tolland.

Mr. Moreschi added the following to the agenda: Old Business (4E) – discussion of email involving leashing dogs; Old Business(4) – mail received regarding Bolton Lakes ERT; New Business(2C) – Nye Holman management plan; New Business (2D) – Health and Fitness National Trails Training Partnership and moved (4C) the Boy Scout Project –Invasive Plants to the top of the agenda. These additions and changes were accepted (moved by Ms. Query, second by Mr. Symonds) and the lines added to the agenda.

B. Public Comment. – The Scout from Troup 2 apologized for not being at the project location on Monday but in fact did go on Saturday when he worked for an hour. He was able to remove some multiflora rose with an iron rake and then used a saw at the root. He will return on Saturday, 4/23/09 (9AM-3PM) and Ms. Query will bring her weed wrench to see if it would assist with the invasive plant’s removal. The plan is to remove the plants and leave the stumps. He will return at a later time with others to remove the stumps. Mr. Moreschi inquired if adults would be present and the Scout responded an adult would be present who could determine if the ratchet tool could be used by the Scouts. Mr. Moreschi also asked about the plan for the multiflora rose debris and the Scout responded he was working with Mr. Hankinson and the plan is to make four piles along the edge of the area and in the Fall create a larger pile that could be burned.

2. New Business

A. Update – Linda Farmer – A copy of the article “The Working Forest”, www.nytimes.com dated 4/19/09 was distributed to all on the Conservation Commission.

Ms. Farmer stated that she has received an A-2 survey for the Knofla property which was surveyed by Landmark Engineering. It showed a pergola on a property on Hunter Road was encroaching on the property, a corner of a shed and some stockpiled materials on a property on Bakos Road and a parking area and a corner of the driveway for the Gorman property on Bakos Road is on the Knofla property. As resolutions, the pergola has been moved, the shed will be moved and stockpiled materials moves and the Gormans will vacate the parking lot on Knofla. Further concern was the driveway which is quite steep (east of Knofla’s house) and clips the corner of the property. One possibility was to swap the driveway corner and convey to the Gormans and the town receive land where the trail crosses over onto the Knofla property. Ms. Farmer also

mentioned the Amy Patterson from the Trust for Public Land would like to hold a ceremony for the Preservation of Open Space at the Knofla property although no management plan is currently in place.

- B. Future Community Projects – Ms Farmer discussed that it may be helpful to have a list of Future Community Projects for groups that expressed interest in same. She had received a request from a Scout in Troop 2, Tolland who was inquiring about doing an Eagle Scout project. Mr. Hankinson explained that the Eagle Scout projects can be flexible but do have criteria and suggested two projects. The first was reclamation of the foundation of Stoppleworth with the appropriate research and a plaque for the location. The second would be trails at Benton Homestead with a little amphitheater where school classes could visit, walk the trails and have lunch. Mr. Symonds stated that Eagle Scout projects need to benefit the community while the Scout is responsible for planning, organizing and managing the project as well as documenting his findings. Ms. MacDonald added that another requirement was the securing of materials from local businesses. Mr. Hankinson agreed that a list of such projects should be put together and include contact information for those interested.
- C. Nye-Holman Management Plan – Ms. Farmer provided the documentation to Mr. Moreschi. Mr. Moreschi will scan and email the information out and stated the discussion of the Nye-Holman should be added to next month's agenda.
- D. National Trails Training Partnership – Discussion ensued as to the health benefits of spending money on trail development. The cost benefit ratio was 2.94.

3. Business Meeting

- A. Approve minutes of March 12, 2009 – On page 3, 4A, line 3 should read “Mr. Hankinson along with a group would be”. Mr. Symonds motioned to accept the minutes. Ms. Query seconded the motion. On the Workshop Minutes for 3/26 Ms. Query would like her name corrected to Ms. Lois Query. The workshop minutes were accepted.

4. Old Business

- A. June workshop with Donna Ellis – Ms. Query suggested that the May agenda include the number of registrants for the purposes of refreshments, planning, etc.. Ms. MacDonald added the workshop is on the website (the request for reservation of seats was added), in the Tolland Monthly for May 2009 and possibly in the PTO news as well. Ms. Query added the Garden Club would meet for the workshop – approximately 25 members. Ms. MacDonald added that Ms. Ellis would need a screen and Ms. Query stated there was one above the fireplace. Mr. Symonds added the recreation department should be called on Thursday to coordinate the event and confirm that the screen is still there. Further discussion regarding advertising the event followed including hanging posters for the event as soon as possible at locations such as Agway, Big Y and banks as well as having the event e-blasted. Mr. Koss will help distribute posters to the garden centers and hardware stores.
- B. Tolland Conservation Corps – Mr. Hankinson explained that the Schindler/Schmidt property would be mostly done after it was yellow trail blazed and will be ready for a grand opening in the fall. Additionally, the King property will also be yellow trail blazed and will need a boardwalk in three areas as well as a small bridge. Both of these

projects will be done before Memorial Day. Lastly, in the fall, Parciak might require two small bridges. Paint may also be needed and stewards for all properties now exist. Palmer looks good and Mr. Hankinson didn't see the need for anything major.

- C. Boy Scout Project – Invasive Plants (moved to Public Comment)
- D. Conservation Commission Website Additions – Mr. Symonds stated the website should contain a form where people can leave good, bad or indifferent comments on the conservation sites. Additionally, the rules should be reiterated, management plans and individual facility maps posted. Finally, events and conservation corp work parties should be posted as well. Ms. MacDonald added that trail etiquette should also be included. Mr. Koss suggested that the management plans common to all properties should be posted so it is a positive experience for everyone. Mr. Holl added the site should have links to the calendar of events, related groups and management plans. He believed a mock up may be able to be done before the site is uploaded.
- E. Management Plans - Mr. Symonds said a template for the Knofla property has been done – the property has been walked and a GPS route submitted. Discussion of the rescheduled Auperin walk followed. On May 16th at 9AM the Auperin property will be walked and attendees should park at Weigold. On May 2nd at 9AM the Palmer property will be walked. Attendees should park and meet just past the pond (Sugar Hill to Kendall Mt. Road – parking is available on the right). Mr. Hankinson said that Jackie Ricci may be interested in being a steward for the Palmer property and that he will call her to invite her on the walk as well.

A discussion followed regarding an email received that mentioned that some dogs were not on leashes and being allowed to roam at one of the Properties. The Commission agreed that information should be posted to the website and that signs were posted as well. Ms. Query suggested that the Tolland Monthly be used to introduce trail etiquette and education. Mr. Holl recommended that the next batch of brochures (available at each property) be revised to include leash information. Mr. Symonds will draft a response to the email. Mr. Moreschi added that state law requires dogs to be leashed.

5. Reports of Subcommittees

- A. Land Rating - None
- B. Land Management - None
- C. Education and Outreach - None

- F. Announcements - None

- G. Executive Session - None

- H. Adjournment - Symonds/Query motioned to adjourn the meeting and pay the clerk at 9:16PM. Motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk