



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes - February 7, 2024 - Goshen Town Hall Conference Room and Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman, Iain Kinsella, called the February 7, 2024, meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Present at Goshen Town Hall Conference Room: Iain Kinsella-Chair and Paul Gallo-Vice Chair

Present on ZOOM: Cindy Barrett, Annette Lott, Jason Masi, and Sue Rinaldi. Excused: Laura Saucier Krukar

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 3, 2024, meeting were emailed for review. Sue Rinaldi made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Annette Lott. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: No correspondence received in the mailbox at Town Hall.

OLD BUSINESS:

Torrington Water Company/ Aquarion bridge building: Iain reported that the Conservation Commission is applying for Trail Grant money again this year and the Goshen Recreation Department is on board. A meeting had been held a week ago with all of the parties involved and Iain reported to them about the bridges that had been wiped out on the Torrington Water Company/Aquarion property July of 2023. They thought it was a good idea to reach out to Aquarion to gain their approval of our putting in a request for monies to put the bridges back in this grant. Iain contacted Carolyn Giampe, Director, Sustainability & Environmental Management at Aquarion Water, and they gave their support.

After research and discussion with Commission member, Paul Gallo, and Joe Welsh from Aquarion, the option of an aluminum bridge in the correct width seems to be the best choice. They are in use elsewhere, easy to transport to the site, engineered, and safe. The cost can vary from \$3,000 to \$7,000 per bridge. The grant will be submitted appropriately and the Commission will wait on decision which does take time.

Trail maintenance reports: Iain reported that Joe Welsh, resident, did walk the Town Hill Trail this past month. He reported a downed large dead ash tree, some small trees that were blown down, and that the footbridge has a broken board that needs to be taken care of. As always, Iain extended thanks and appreciation to Joe for taking the time to check on this trail.

East Street North Trail - Iain reported that he and Paul took care of cleaning out the 2 wood duck boxes at the pond this past Saturday. Last year, the pond did not freeze and we could not clean them. Pictures were taken and were screen shared with members. The box on the island had 12 unhatched eggs. The south end box had a family of 5 mice living in it. After the mice were removed, 15 to 17 eggs were counted. The boxes were cleaned and fresh shavings were put in. The game camera was placed safely in the area near the south box with hopes to get some pictures of what is happening there this year.

They reported that the picnic table area near the pond was clear of tree debris as well as the southern entrance to the trail.

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Sue reported that before the last snow, she had hiked and some trees were down. She will make plans to clean them up and Iain asked to send an email around to see if anyone could join her.

Bantam Lake watershed project status: No report at this meeting.

East Street North trail grant discussion: Iain reported above under Torrington Water Company/Aquarion bridge building.

Goshen Town Topics future articles: The next article deadline is February 19, 2024. Iain will do an article with some facts about what the Commission does, Jason will assist, and Iain asked members to share any pictures that he might include.

Goshen Town Hall Walkway beds/Pollinator Garden Maintenance: No report at this meeting.

Goshen Open Space Plan 2025: Iain suggested to take a look at the Plan which is on the Goshen Town website, it will be reviewed and will be updated by the Conservation Commission for the Plan of Conservation and Development 2025.

Iain reported that a totally new QR code will need to be done for the Conservation Commission to post at the trails to properly direct hikers to the Conservation Commission page on the Goshen Town website for trail rules and other information of interest. He will work on this.

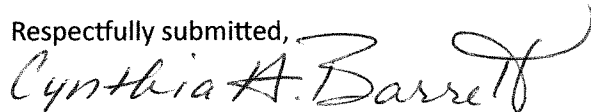
New Business: Paul reported that he has the bat nursery box to place on the entrance of the John Ross Trail on East Street South.

A 4x4x16 foot pole will be used to install after the ground thaws. It has a perfect southern exposure, water source, and will provide insects for food. It will be a 2-3 person job to get it installed.

Agenda for March was reviewed and the bat nursery box project will be added.


ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Gallo, seconded by Sue Rinaldi at 6:58 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia A. Barrett

Received Feb. 12, 2024 @ 10:25 AM.

Attest 
Goshen Town Clerk