



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes October 7, 2020 meeting

This meeting was recorded via Zoom.US and is available as a recording on the Goshen website.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Anders Nygren, Gene Newell, Suzanne Newell, Paul Gallo, Laura Saucier-Krukar, Jason Masi; absent
Iain Kinsella. Colleen Kinkade, guest.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Anders Nygren called the September meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the September meeting were presented for approval. Gene Newell made a motion to accept the minutes. There was no discussion, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence was received.

OLD BUSINESS:

Anders Nygren asked Colleen Kinkade, a guest, to explain her request to create a contest encouraging people to hike all the trails in Goshen, log their progress, and potentially win some sort of prize(s). Colleen stated that Pat Lucas, Sara Leonard and Erin Riley volunteered to put items out on the trails for a scavenger hunt. She liked the concept of using a tennis-ball holder on a stake, with whatever is printed facing outward to be read without having to touch it or pull it out of the enclosure. Gift certificates to AJ's, Sunset Meadow Vineyards, Goshen Wine & Spirits would be great prizes for the scavenger hunt. Jason Masi volunteered to be on a committee to help Colleen and agreed to contact Greg Brick at Goshen Wine & Spirits soon. Laura Saucier-Krukar also volunteered to join the committee and help execute the plan. Gene and Suzanne Newell will also collaborate with Colleen to help out. Fiberglass stakes will be purchased and tennis ball holders will be provided by the Newells. There are 8 trails in Goshen: 4 town owned trails, 4 Goshen Land Trust trails. Colleen will arrange a Zoom meeting for some time in the next week. Potentially the contest could run for 4 weeks.

Trail maintenance - Anders Nygren noted that he walked the Terry Hall Trail on the Torrington Water Co. land, and routed the trail around a downed tree. Paul Gallo reported that the town crew mowed some high grass and brush around the pond on East St. North. John Ross trail barbed wire that was piled by the entrance has been removed.



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Paul Gallo commented that a bat house pole for the East St. South field has been acquired, and he is fabricating a steel hinge mechanism to raise and lower the bat house easily every year for maintenance. Once that piece is made the pole and bat house can be installed, presumably before winter.

Gene Newell mentioned that a project ongoing in Litchfield called "Pollinator Pathways" regarding habitat, plantings, etc. to encourage and promote populations of bees, butterflies, pollinating insects and hummingbirds. Plantings and improving existing habitat will be planned. Laura Saucier-Krukar and Gene Newell thought this might make an interesting future Town Topics article. Laura is involved with pollinators as part of her work with DEEP, and could be considered our resident expert.

Anders Nygren stated that he has the new Goshen Conservation Commission trail markers, newly received from the sign company. He will bring trail markers to the October 24 Town Hall flower bed cleanup project to distribute them to members.

Bantam Watershed Project: Gene Newell reported that no significant news was available. Anders Nygren mentioned that this topic might be a good one for a Town Topics future article.

Anders Nygren followed up and asked if anyone knew the current status of the potential purchase of the Beech Hill property for permanent open space by the Town or State. Gene Newell stated that at the last Goshen Land Trust meeting, First Selectman Bob Valentine informed the Land Trust that a contract has been signed by the state and anticipates closing before end of 2020. Anders Nygren mentioned that this topic might also be a good one for a Town Topics future article.

Anders Nygren asked if anyone had any ideas for future articles for the Town Topics newsletter. At this time, no member had anything to submit.

Anders Nygren reminded members that October 24 is the date to meet at Town Hall for the flower beds cleanup; all agreed to meet at 9:00 a.m. that day, bringing tarps, rakes, trucks and leaf blowers. A notice will be sent out to remind everyone of the outing the week before.



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NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Anders Nygren reported that he will be stepping down as commission chairman at the end of his term in October, and it will be up to commission members to nominate a new chairman for the future. Commission members thanked Mr. Nygren for his years of service since he headed up the commission since the 1990's.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gene Newell. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Gallo".

Paul Gallo
Secretary

Received Oct. 14, 2020 @ 1:13 P.M.

Attest Barbara Z. Buey
Goshen Town Clerk

