



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes February 5, 2020 meeting

ATTENDANCE:

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Anders Nygren called the October meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 4, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Gene Newell made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Suzanne Newell. There was no discussion, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Habitat quarterly newsletter was received.

OLD BUSINESS:

Anders Nygren mentioned that he submitted our annual budget. In the budget was funding to purchase GCC new logo 4" diameter metal trail markers. Anders Nygren is going to check with the First Selectman to make sure this purchase is still OK. Mr. Nygren also stated that the First Selectman had asked how much the Town owed Paul Gallo for the materials to fabricate trailhead kiosks and bat houses for the trail areas. Paul Gallo responded that he has donated his labor and all materials to the Town.

Anders Nygren stated that the East St. North property has been cleared, leveled, seeded and mulched by the Town's crews on the north end of the pond by the picnic tables and the east bank of the pond across the bridge. Gene Newell offered that now that the north bank has been cleared of all brambles and brush, would it make sense to put a sitting bench across from the wood duck nest box on that bank where it's cleared. That would eliminate the need to cut and blaze the "Porcupine Trail" to get down to the water on the west bank. The trail map would need to be revised to eliminate the Porcupine Trail if that course of action is approved.

Trailhead information kiosks have been installed at all but one trailhead. A kiosk for the north end of the Water Company trail is being made with integral mounting "legs" to bolt to a short telephone pole post near the road entrance. That will be completed and installed in the next few weeks.



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Anders Nygren showed some pictures that he has taken for a "Trail Publicity" program. The photos – like calendar shots - were of various trail areas at different times of the year and all agreed would be perfect for showing off the trail areas to townspeople who may not be aware of them and their natural beauty. Mr. Nygren offered a possible marketing slogan name for the publicity campaign: "Hike Goshen Trails".

Gene Newell indicated that he wants to go over all the points-of-interest "tubes" to make sure they are all still in place, the stakes are not broken, etc. New POI tubes to be installed will be at the "woodpecker tree" on the east bank of the pond on E. St. N. and the bat house installed last year on the pond.

Paul Gallo mentioned that he installed a grade-stake marker for the bat house pole in the John Ross trail field area. Laura Saucier-Krukar has identified 3 posts made of 4x4 pressure treated lumber which might be available to GCC at no charge. She will advise the status of those posts for future bat house mounting.

Anders Nygren asked if anyone had any article suggestions for the Town Topics newsletter, submission due February 13. Suzanne Newell volunteered to write an article on "Bat House installations on town trails". Paul Gallo volunteered to write an article on the "Follow the Forest" program by the Housatonic Valley Association.

Anders Nygren asked about the status of the potential purchase of the Beech Hill property for permanent open space by the Town or State. There are several grants available, in addition to Federal Pittman-Robertson and local Title 67 funds, to possibly enable State of CT to purchase the 620 acre property. Gene Newell stated that he was aware that the State of CT had put out bids for appraisals of the property. Suzanne Newell mentioned that the property owners had received a low bid from another potential buyer for the land, which was rejected.

Anders Nygren mentioned that Gene and Suzanne Newell attended the annual conference of CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands commissions on November 23, 2019. They have agreed to present a summary of the conference talks at the April 2020 meeting, due to the fact that we were missing some key commission members not in attendance.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gene Newell, motion seconded by Jason Masi. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Paul Gallo
Secretary

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

Received Feb. 6, 2020 @ 1:58 P.M.

Attest A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Buckley Z. Blum".

Goshen Town Clerk