



## **GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Minutes July 1, 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. Guest: Colleen Kinkade, Goshen Recreation dept. Absent: Laura Saucier-Krukar, Iain Kinsella, Jason Masi.

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Anders Nygren called the May meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

### **APPROVAL of MINUTES:**

The minutes of the May 6 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, attending as 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 will also invite the Goshen Land Trust to join the hiking trail promotion to expose interested people to the Land Trust holdings as well as town owned trails. Colleen will attend the next commission meeting to clarify her proposal for the absent members.

Anders Nygren sent some pictures in to Town Topics that he has taken for a "Trail Publicity" program. The photos were not used in this last edition but will be used in the next edition. Paul Gallo submitted an article on "Follow the Forest" which was published in the last edition of the newsletter.

Anders Nygren reported on the June 30 Town meeting in which the Highland grant of \$131,500 was voted on, to apply the grant toward the expense of the East St. North property purchase.

Anders Nygren walked the East St. North trail and found that it was pretty overgrown with tall grass near the picnic area. He used a weed trimmer to clean up some of the tall grass, and clear a path over to the bridge from the parking area. Iain Kinsella hiked the Town Hill trail and removed two downed trees on May 9 to open



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the path up. Gene Newell and Suzanne Newell had placed an updated trail map in the kiosk on East St. North. They noted over a dozen geese on the grassy areas and the pond. Question raised on what to do to keep geese away if they continue to be a nuisance. Gene Newell reported that he has updated trail maps with GCC logo. Gene also mentioned that he would like to ask the Goshen town website manager to redo the information links on the GCC page to group related topics, with possible drop-down menus. Gene will work with Virginia Perry on this project.

Paul Gallo noted that the trail kiosks are all built, installed and mostly populated with laminated signage. He also noted that the bat house pole for East St. South has been acquired, and he is fabricating a hinge mechanism to raise and lower the bat house easily every year for maintenance. Once that piece is made the bat house can be installed.

Gene Newell had been approached by someone who wanted to know if there was a dog park in Goshen to be able to run dogs off-leash. He told the person that he would inquire about the possibility and bring it up for discussion at the next meeting. Anders Nygren discussed the possibility of this with the First Selectman who indicated there is no plan to put a dog park in town.

Anders Nygren was contacted by the Goshen Garden Club which expressed interest in helping with the beautification project at the East St. North pond. They do not have a representative singled out at this time to work with us.

Anders Nygren offered the three variations of logo signs (round, square and diamond shaped), confirmed that he submitted our annual budget with a request for funding to purchase G.C.C. new logo 4" diameter metal trail markers. He noted that the group unanimously agreed that the diamond shaped sign would be best; he is going to investigate having a sample made up for the next meeting.

Gene Newell discussed the details of the Bantam Watershed Project, which seeks to identify sources of phosphate and nitrate pollution around the lake. Site visits and recommendations will be drawn up around year end.



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Sustainable CT is being staffed by town officials in a feasibility stage according to Gene Newell. Chairman Nygren agreed to table the discussion until we know more about what is actually happening, and asked that we discuss further at our next meeting.

Anders Nygren asked if anyone knew the status of the potential purchase of the Beech Hill property for permanent open space by the Town or State. Gene Newell stated that he was aware that the Highlands Grant and Pittman -Robertson federal funds have been identified. The State is doing an appraisal of the site.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

No new business.

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

Respectfully submitted,

GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*Paul Gallo* Paul Gallo *BLR*

Paul Gallo  
Secretary

Received July 6, 2020 @ 3:42 P.M.

Attest Barbara Z. Burr  
Goshen Town Clerk