



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes June 5, 2019 meeting

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Anders Nygren, Gene Newell, Suzanne Newell, Paul Gallo, Chris Marino, Iain Kinsella, Jason Masi.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the April 3, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Iain Kinsella made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Chris Marino. *There was no discussion and the motion carried.*

OLD BUSINESS:

Anders Nygren presented a copy of a Consumer Reports article on tick repellents, and discussion about the ratings of various materials and their costs followed. A suggestion to possibly post a copy in the kiosk on East St. North was made, but Gene Newell commented that we should be careful about "recommending" a tick repellent. Anders Nygren asked that the commission members think about how to effectively warn citizens hiking or picnicking on town lands of the presence of ticks, and what they could use to keep themselves tick-free as they enjoy the outdoors.

Anders Nygren mentioned that he walked the Town Hill trail and commented that it's in good condition but for a tree that had fallen and needed to be cut and removed. Jason Masi had intended to work with Iain Kinsella on that trail work, and do maintenance on the Torrington Water Co. trail, but they had not been able to get together at a mutually agreeable time yet. Anders Nygren asked them to observe the bottom of the water company trail near the reservoir where it's very muddy, and see if they could recommend a route-change around the wet areas. Gene Newell stated that he'd walked the Town Hill trail with his GPS and mapped waypoints so that the map could be corrected. Suzanne Newell mentioned that there were some very muddy areas on the trail parallel to Town Hill Rd. due to all the rain we've had. Anders Nygren asked if the trail should be moved to a drier location, but the Newells stated that this has been an exceptionally wet spring, and we should observe the trail condition as time goes on this summer and the rains subside (hopefully). Gene Newell also mentioned that there was not a large amount of invasive plant species spotted in the logged area. Barberry and burning bush were the main species seen. Anders Nygren mentioned that he used his weed



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trimmer to keep the south trail entrance open at the Torrington Water Co. trailhead. Gene Newell noted that at the East St. North pond, there was some water running over the spillway next to the bridge, due to weeds clogging up the dam overflow. Also a beaver was spotted swimming in the pond and hooded merganser ducks and a great blue heron were seen on the water.

Anders Nygren asked members if a time could be agreed upon to meet up and paint-blaze the East St. North trails. Weekend dates were preferred; Gene Newell agreed to email the group after checking the calendar for potential dates.

Anders Nygren mentioned that the Kids' Fishing Derby was held at the East St. North pond, and was covered in an article in the newspaper.

Chris Marino asked if the Torrington Water Co. could be approached to ask permission for trail permit holders to be allowed to fish the stream on the north trail between the two upper bridges (not near the reservoir). Some years ago permission was requested but denied; Chris Marino said that he would discuss this with First Selectman Robert Valentine to see if he'd agree to contact the water company.

Anders Nygren acknowledged that Paul Gallo posted a sign at the entrance of the E. St. N. trail parking area. He commented that the parking area is somewhat hidden unless you know it's there, and putting a sign up pointing hikers to the parking area makes it much easier to know where the area is.

Gene Newell stated that the bank area of the East St. North pond has many "stubs" of brush that the town crews had cut before the fishing derby to open up the bank for the kids. These stubs are long enough to cause a trip-hazard, and many are cut at a sharp angle which could injure someone if they fell on it.

Gene Newell commented that in addition to trail blazing work at the trail, the GCC could use manual pulling or cutting of invasive plants to keep the phragmites from spreading. He noted that triclopyr might be able to be used near the pond, but Roundup probably should not be.

Kiosks will be made during the next months by Paul Gallo and installed for the hiking season. A smaller size kiosk for the north end of the Town Hill trail will be made, and a full size one will be made and installed at the south trail entrance by the gate.



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Paul Gallo said he would submit the "CT Invasive Plant Management Calendar" published by the CT Invasive Plant Working Group at UCONN for a Town Topics article (with credits), for the next Town Topics newsletter.

Anders Nygren suggested weeding and mulching the town hall flower beds lining the front walk. Suzanne and Gene Newell volunteered to weed the beds. Questions were asked about trimming the shrubs and mulching the beds.

No meeting will be held in July due to the holiday falling on the first Wednesday. Next conservation commission meeting will be August 7, 2019.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chris Marino, motion seconded by Iain Kinsella. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Paul Gallo
Secretary

Received June 11, 2019 @ 10:50 AM

Attest Barbara Z. Breen
Goshen Town Clerk