



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes - December 1, 2021 meeting

ATTENDANCE:

Present via ZOOM: Iain Kinsella, Jason Masi and Jeff Damiano
Present in person: Paul Gallo and Cynthia Barrett
Absent: Suzanne Rinaldi and Laura Saucier-Krukar

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Iain Kinsella called the December meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the November 3, 2021, meeting were presented for approval. Paul Gallo made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Jason Masi. There was no discussion, the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Cindy Barrett reported that an annual request for membership letter from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council, dated 11/17/2021, was received. Historically, Iain noted that the Goshen Conservation Commission is not a member. Iain reported that he had sent a congratulatory email to newly elected, First Selectman, Todd Carusillo, and Todd responded that he will look forward to attending meetings as his schedule permits.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pollinator Pathways Project: No report tonight but Sue Rinaldi is the point person for the project and planting is planned for spring 2022. Iain noted that Sue had shared she would like to put down cardboard on the area to prep the site for the spring.

Torrington Water Company fishing by permit at reservoir: Iain is going to reach out to them again and he will have a discussion with the First Selectman about it. Former First Selectman, Bob Valentine, will be contacted to obtain any historical information about previous fishing permitting in the past.

Town Topics future articles: No article was submitted for this issue. Iain will follow up with the article that Laura Saucier-Krukar has been working on. Paul Gallo is working on an article on resident moose in the northwest corner and will complete it well in advance of the next issue. Iain noted that he would like to be 2 articles ahead so that we do not miss an issue. Jeff Damiano is working on an article on invasive aquatic plants for the spring issue. Discussion was had on formats for articles and it was suggested to review past submissions in the Town Topics on the Goshen website. Iain is working on an article thanking Bob Valentine, Anders Nygren, and Gene and Suzanne Newell.

Trail maintenance reports: Jeff Damiano reported that he had done some maintenance on Pie Hill over the past month and plans to hike and check "The Great Wall of Goshen" trail on East Street North. Cindy Barrett reported that the glacial erratic trail at East Street North looked good after a recent hike. Iain noted that Joe Welsh is keeping an eye on the Town Hill Trail for the Commission.

Iain Kinsella made a motion to name the trail on East Street North at the Hoover Pond site, after and in honor, of Anders Nygren, former Chairman of the Goshen Conservation Commission, actual name to be decided later with the rest of the Commission and was seconded by Jason Masi. There was no discussion, the motion carried. Paul Gallo reminded the Commission that in the wintertime, the Commission does the maintenance on the wood duck boxes at the Hoover Pond site on East Street North. End of January beginning of February is the appropriate time when the ice is safe. He explained that the wood duck boxes are opened, checked for remnants of egg shells, an attempt to identify them and take pictures. The old wood shavings are cleaned out, new pine shavings are put in for the next nesting season and the boxes are sealed up. Discussion was had regarding any reporting that needs to be done. At this time, no reporting is done. Jeff Damiano asked if any particular trail needs more attention. Discussion was had regarding maintenance on the Water Company Property Trail and Iain explained that it is the one that sometimes needs the most attention. It is a long trail, the northern road entrance is kept maintained by the Water Company but the southern entrance usually needs weed whacking done, can be muddy, and is checked for downed trees. Paul Gallo asked about Pie Hill Trail maintenance and Iain reported that Joe Welsh, Shelton CT, has been tending to it.

Game camera results: Iain reported that Joe Welsh had reviewed his cam pictures and deer were reported to be seen. Paul Gallo pulled his card for the East Street North Trail and he screen shared pictures of many hikers, deer, flying squirrels and two yearling moose. Unfortunately, when he visited the trail last weekend to pull the card again to report, the camera had disappeared. Paul offered his apologies that this had happened. Discussion was had about the great pictures and getting another camera.

Bat detector study data: No report.

Bantam Lake watershed project status: Cindy Barrett reported that at the 11/23/2021 Board of Selectmen's meeting, Jim Mersfelder and Richard Reis from Woodridge Lake Sewer District (WLS), were present and a handout on the DEEP Bantam Lake Nutrient Loading Study - Overview of DEEP Initiative was reviewed. They reviewed the Bantam Lake Protective Association and Dexter Kinsella, Selectman, was voted to be the representative of the BOS. Jeff Damiano shared that he had questions regarding where the water samples were taken and how were conclusions made. Discussion was had.

Town Hall flower bed cleanup and mulching date: Iain reported that clean up has been done and Cindy Barrett had emailed a list of plants for the new Town Hall Foundation planting from Garret Harlow. The list will be reviewed, any maintenance will be identified, and mulch will be taken care of as needed for the new area as well.

DEEP trail marking Beech Hill property: Iain reported no changes but reviewed that the State is coordinating trails with the Goshen Land Trust trails which abut the Beech Hill property. Iain stated that when needed, we could volunteer to assist in the future. Paul Gallo reported that the Northwest CT Sportman's Council members were also going to pitch in and do boundary and trail marking on this 600 acre property.

DEEP grant suggestions and submission: Iain had forwarded information via email on the DEEP grant suggestions and discussion was had regarding what suggestions members might have for grant submissions in the coming year that might qualify.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Iain reviewed the Agenda for next meeting of January 5, 2022.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Gallo, seconded by Jeff Damiano and meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia Barrett, Secretary - GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Received Dec 6th, 2021, 9:19 A.M

Attest  Asst.
Goshen Town Clerk