



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes September 4, 2019 meeting

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Anders Nygren, Gene Newell, Suzanne Newell, Paul Gallo, Jason Masi. Guest: Laura Saucier-Krukar.
Absent: Chris Marino, Iain Kinsella

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the August 7, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Gene Newell made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Jason Masi. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS:

Anders Nygren asked members to pick a date to finish clearing and paint-blaze the East St. North upper loop hiking trail. Date chosen was Sunday, Sept 15, at 9:00 a.m. Gene Newell stated that a couple trail intersections will need signage installed to direct hikers left or right to be installed in the future.

Suzanne Newell mentioned that she, Gene and Paul Gallo installed a bat house on a tree near the picnic tables on the pond on East St. North. She and Gene Newell purchased the bat house and donated it to the GCC/ Town of Goshen -- Thank You to the Newells! Gene Newell mentioned that it could be a good article for Town Topics newsletter. Paul Gallo offered that a "point-of-interest" tube could be installed near the bat house tree to educate hikers/visitors about the benefits of bats.

Anders Nygren asked about invasive plant removal on GCC trails. Gene and Suzanne Newell mentioned that the logged area on Town Hill Rd. has barberry, knotweed which can be removed.

Anders Nygren asked for a status of trail maintenance on Water Company land; no work has been done yet, according to Jason Masi. He will coordinate with Iain Kinsella to get this done.

Anders Nygren had previously asked Iain Kinsella if he could copy, laminate 6 copies of each "tick awareness" bulletin, which was done. Those signs can now be posted.



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes September 4, 2019 meeting

Gene Newell reminded the members that the west bank area of the East St. North pond has many "stubs" of brush that the town crews had cut last spring. 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. Members will bring lopping shears and small chain saw to the pond after the first frost (date TBD) when leaves have dropped to cut the stubs flush with the ground, and cut back any saplings which may have started to grow.

Anders Nygren asked for a status of trail kiosk construction. Trailhead information kiosks are being made by Paul Gallo. A full size kiosk (copied from East St. North kiosk) has been made and will be stained and installed at the south Town Hill trail entrance across from the gate, and eventually on other hiking trails. A smaller size kiosk for the north end of the Town Hill trail will also be made.

Anders Nygren informed the commission of the CT Trails Census Program, an article on which he'd read in the local newspaper. This program monitors hiking trail usage all over CT. Laura Saucier-Krukar noted that it is a "CLEAR program", a statewide volunteer based pilot program, with a website to check out:

<http://www.cttrailsensus.uconn.edu>

Laura Saucier-Krukar mentioned that she works for DEEP and is on a project of "aquatic connectivity" in various towns. This deals with fish passage barriers. Stream crossings and culverts need to be replaced as they approach their end of life. If they can be replaced with natural stream bottom structures, that is most beneficial to fish passage. Town road departments typically have a list of culverts that need to be maintained and at some point replaced. A study to determine which culverts are most important to fish passage could cost up to \$8 – 10,000.00, offset by state and/or federal grants. Laura asked how our Town could get a grant for this work; she offered to do legwork to find out more, and report at the upcoming meetings.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gene Newell, motion seconded by Jason Masi. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Paul Gallo
Secretary

Received Sept. 9, 2019 @ 3:06 P.M.

Attest Bailey Z. Breen
Goshen Town Clerk