

GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes October 5, 2016 meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ATTENDANCE:

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

APPROVAL of Minutes:

The minutes of the September 7, 2016 meeting were presented for approval. Iain Kinsella made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Gene Newell, there was no discussion and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Anders Nygren discussed the Annual Town Report for the Goshen Conservation Commission, and submitted a draft of the contents to be provided to the Town by Friday, October 7. Reviewed by all members, Iain Kinsella recommended adding the Commission's activity in writing for Goshen Town Topics newsletter. All agreed, Anders Nygren will revise submission to reflect the addition. Review of Commission's activities during the year included: Hiking Trail maintenance, Open Space Plan completion, Town Beautification project, Membership restoration, Town Topics submissions.

Anders Nygren reviewed his discussion of the possibility of overnight camping on town property with First Selectman Robert Valentine. Mr. Valentine indicated that he checked with Torrington Area Board of Health District which requires sanitary facilities for camping to be allowed. Gene Newell discussed the Goshen Land Trust camping permit policy, which follows the Boy Scouts of America protocol for camping.

Anders Nygren followed up on the possibility of an opportunity for the Town to acquire the 60 acre Harmon parcel. Negotiation with current owner was unsuccessful, so this issue is dead at this time. Anders Nygren proposed putting forth an official statement from the Goshen Conservation Commission that should Harmon's or other land become available, the Conservation Commission would recommend that the Town of Goshen use Title 67 funds to purchase it. Jason Masi raised a question about Title 67 funds being used by a private entity (e.g. Goshen Land Trust) to purchase open space for the Town. Iain Kinsella suggested contacting Goshen Town Attorney to discuss various scenarios for land purchase, using Title 67 funds. Anders Nygren will contact the Goshen Town Attorney for discussion and clarification of these issues: 1) Can the Town transfer funds to a non-profit organization for open-space land purchase?, 2) Can the Goshen Title 67 statute be amended to allow purchase of land for specifically open space, or recreation, or housing? 3) Can land be titled to an entity other than just the Town of Goshen (non-profit organization e.g. Goshen Land Trust). Chris Marino asked Anders Nygren to question the Town Attorney if there is separability in revising the statute,

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regarding housing, recreation or open space land. He will report back to the Commission at the November meeting.

Anders Nygren suggested East St. North trail re-routing and marking be done on Saturday, October 22 at 9:00 a.m. Paint blazing trees and metal boundary markers will be installed.

Anders Nygren noted that the Historic Talk and Trail Walk will take place on Saturday October 29. Signups so far are 3 people, not including Conservation Commission members. People who will be going on the walk will need to get a permit prior to the date to park and walk on Torrington Water Company land.

Anders Nygren asked for suggestions for indoor, winter projects that Commission members could undertake. Suggestion was made to consider the next article in the series of Invasive Plants.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Next Town Topics newsletter submissions (Spring, Summer)
- New indoor/winter projects for the Commission to pursue
- Election of Officers
- Open Space land purchases via Title 67 funds
- Fall announcement of East St. North trail opening

There was no other business to come before the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Iain Kinsella, seconded by Gene Newell; meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Paul Gallo
Secretary

Received Oct. 13, 2016 1:09 P.M.

Alicia Barber
Goshen Town Clerk