

GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Minutes August 3, 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. Absent: Iain Kinsella

APPROVAL of Minutes:

The minutes of the July 6, 2016 meeting were presented for approval. Anders Nygren noted a typographical error in the name "Harlow trail" as recorded in the minutes; correct name is "Hart Hollow trail". He asked if the members felt there should be an amendment to the July minutes; everyone agreed that was not necessary. Chris Marino made a motion to accept the minutes, motion seconded by Gene Newell, there was no discussion and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Anders Nygren stated that he had opened up the Hart Hollow trail south entrance which was quite overgrown and impassable; it is now accessible by anyone with a permit wishing to hike the Water Company trail. He also noted that the East St. North trail needs to be opened up due to ferns growing up and obscuring the trail; he indicated he would take his gas powered trimmer up to knock the ferns back in the next few weeks.

Gene Newell discussed using a smartphone app called "Track-It" to help map out the new East St. North trail. Gene and his wife Suzanne will walk the trail and map waypoints to see if the app can create a new, accurate map of the trail. Gene Newell stated that when he was last on the trail, he found a survey pin near the pond, and felt it would be fairly easy to take a northwest heading from that point to reroute the trail. He will report on his findings at the September meeting.

Anders Nygren mentioned contacting Wyatt Tillman, an upcoming Eagle Scout from Troop 35 in Goshen, who attended the GCC meeting on July 6 and indicated some interest in building and erecting a trail-head "kiosk" with laminated trail map and historical points of interest on the trail marked with historical details.

Anders Nygren contacted Donna Grenier for suggestions on additional plantings to fill out the flower beds of the Town Hall front walk. Donna suggested dividing the daylilies and transplanting some of them out by the road as they are salt-tolerant and will survive better than any other plants. On Saturday, July 23 the Conservation Commission members met at Town Hall and finished weeding and spreading 2 yards of mulch on the flower beds; special thanks to Suzanne Newell who also pitched in to help out.

Anders Nygren brought to the commission members' attention that the next deadline for the Goshen Town Topics is August 26. He asked if the commission's articles were almost ready to submit to Virginia Perry, the key contact at Town Hall. Paul Gallo discussed the last revision of the invasive plant species article, incorporating all suggested changes by commission members. Paul committed to taking a final draft copy to Virginia for her initial review prior to submitting the digital article. Jason Masi submitted a first draft of an article on bear-human interaction, and members discussed the timing of the submission (Fall vs. Spring, or both), as well as the content/length of the submission. Jason will revise the article and send to commission members via email for the second draft review and comments.

Anders Nygren brought to the members' attention that Terry Hall, a resident historian familiar with the old Goshen settlement, had conducted a historical tour of Hart Hollow trail back in 2011. Terry Hall's family lived near the trail and he is very familiar with the local history. Anders indicated he talked to Terry and he would be willing to conduct another historical talk and tour on October 29 (rain date November 12); participants would be able to meet at the conference room at Town Hall on October 29 to listen to the historical talk, and then they will also be able to meet at the North or South gates (to be determined) to go on the trail walk, with Terry pointing out the historical points of interest. This would be conducted in conjunction with the Goshen Land Trust, as in the past.

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Gene Newell suggested the possibility of getting a bus to shuttle people from Town Hall to the trail and back.

Anders Nygren committed to preparing an article for Town Topics to promote the historical tour, encouraging people to sign up in advance so permits to walk the trail could be obtained for all. He mentioned the fact that the walking tour would be of moderate difficulty due to the hills and rocky trails encountered. Anders will also introduce the newest Conservation Commission members (Jason Masi, Gene Newell) for Town Topics, as well as mention the fact that the Open Space Plan is now on the Town website.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Town Topics newsletter submissions (Spring)
- New indoor/winter projects for the Commission to pursue
- Town Hall flower bed transplanting
- Old Goshen Historical Tour October 29 plans
- Fall announcement of East St. North trail opening
- Discussion of Energy Audits for Town Buildings

There was no other business to come before the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Gene Newell, seconded by Chris Marino; meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Paul Gallo  
Secretary

Received Aug 11, 2016 11:14 AM  
Attest Burbank Beer  
Goshen Town Clerk