



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
April 12, 2023

Prior to the start of the meeting, Clerk Sherry Lee Hynes introduced new member Joan Ulate to the members. Because she was not sworn in by the Town Clerk, she is able to participate in Commission business with the exception of voting. Chairman Nick Webb welcomed her.

Chairman Nick Webb called the April 12, 2023 on-line Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Clinton to order at 6:35 P.M.

Members present: Chairman Nick Webb, Secretary Mary Jo Phelps, Lawrence Ouellette, Bertram Schmitz, Joan Ulate, and, Catherine Zamecnik
Member absent: Mark Giaconia
Also present: Town Planner Abby Piersall and Clerk Sherry Lee Hynes

1. MINUTES

- a. Review and Approval of the January 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Schmitz **MOVED** to accept and approve as presented the Minutes of the January 11, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Ouellette seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Webb, Phelps, Ouellette, Schmitz and Zamecnik. Opposed: none. The motion was **carried**, 5-0-0. Ulate was not eligible to vote.
- b. Review and Approval of the February 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Ouellette **MOVED** to accept and approve as presented the Minutes of the February 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Schmitz seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Webb, Phelps, Ouellette, Schmitz and Zamecnik. Opposed: none. The motion was **carried**, 5-0-0. Ulate was not eligible to vote.
- c. Review and Approval of the March 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Administrative Session). No action needed.

2. CHAIR COMMENTS

- a. Focus on Japanese Knotweed Eradication
- b. Focus on the Indian River Pocket Park (revised scaled-down project)

3. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

a. Workshops

i. Pollinator Pathway Project. Webb led a discussion on public outreach. Zamecnik **MOVED** to authorize Webb to organize an outreach program and to contact the Henry Carter Hull Library to see if the program can be held there. Ouellette seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Webb, Phelps, Ouellette, Schmitz and Zamecnik. Opposed: none. The motion was **carried**, 5-0-0. Ulate was not eligible to vote.

Ouellette **MOVED** to authorize Webb to expend up to \$200 for materials for the Japanese Knotweed Outreach Program. Phelps seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Webb, Phelps, Ouellette, Schmitz and Zamecnik. Opposed: none. The motion was **carried**, 5-0-0. Ulate was not eligible to vote.

ii. Dark Skies Project. Tabled until Giaconia is present.

iii. Residential Food Composting. Town Planner Piersall, with input from Webb, advised that the Town/DPW has received the permit from the State of Connecticut to institute the program at the Transfer Station. Logistics are being addressed for the development/set up of the program. More information should be available for the next Conservation Commission meeting in May. Webb suggested that a local trash collector should be involved as well as other commercial entities. The Conservation Commission can assist by developing public outreach information on the program.

iv. Japanese Knotweed.

Now is again the time for public outreach. Webb will distribute the information used last year to the members and asked for any suggested modifications or additions as soon as possible.

Town Planner Piersall suggested a short video be made on the demonstration of eradication procedures by a professional in the area of knotweed eradication is in order. This could be used in the public outreach program.

Ouellette **MOVED** to authorize Webb to spend up to \$50 for posters on Knotweed education. Phelps seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Webb, Phelps, Ouellette, Schmitz and Zamecnik. Opposed: none. The motion was **carried**, 5-0-0. Ulate was not eligible to vote.

v. Land Acquisition Procedures. Webb and Town Planner Piersall worked on the integration of the Commission's power point presentation into the draft of the municipal procedures prepared by Town Planner Piersall. The draft of the municipal procedures was distributed to the Commission prior to the meeting. Members are asked to review them for discussion at the May 2023 Regular Meeting.

- vi. Amendments to By-laws. Town Planner Piersall will be reviewing the By-Laws as approved by the Commission and will be sending them to the Town Council for adoption.

b. Old/New Business

- i. Operating Budget FY 22/23. Update by Clerk Hynes.
- ii. Proposed Budget FY 23/24. Town Planner Piersall will contact the Town Manager's Office to see if any changes have been made to the budget request.
- iii. Member Educational Opportunities. Opportunities were distributed prior to the meeting.
- iv. Membership. Again, Webb welcomed Ulate to the Commission. She was encouraged to contact the Town Clerk's Office to get sworn in. All the Commissioner positions are filled.
- v. Library – Public Use of Infrared Camera – develop public information. Not taken up.
- vi. Referral: PZC 22-20: Eagle River Subdivision, 161 West Main Street, Frederick & Linda Bauer (Re-submission of subdivision application). Public Hearing: March 13, 2023. Town Planner Piersall advised that the Planning and Zoning Commission, on March 13, 2023, approved the subdivision as proposed, including the transfer of the designated open space lot to Redwing. There was no requirement for public access along the Hammonasset River nor was a conservation easement requested. The Commission expressed their concerns that the continuation of the blueway along the River, as encouraged by the Town Plan of Conservation and Development, will not occur because of the PZC decision. Concern for the stewardship of the property was also brought up. Webb was authorized to draft a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission on the Commission's concerns. It was suggested that the subdivision regulations may be able to be updated to better address open space.
- vii. Possible Open Space. 0 Killingworth Turnpike, Map 28 Block 39 Lot 114 Ouellette advised that the Clinton Land Conservation Trust (CLCT) is interested in this property and representatives plan on coming to the site walk. Ouellette **MOVED** to hold a special meeting on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at 9 A.M. for a site walk at the property on Killingworth Turnpike adjacent to the power lines. Schmitz seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Webb, Phelps, Ouellette, Schmitz and Zamecnik. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. The motion was **carried**, 5-0-0. Ulate was not eligible to vote. The agenda will be sent to Dana Skidmore at the CLCT.
- viii. Additions to Next Regular Meeting Agenda: Wednesday: April 12, 2023. None at this time.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Land Acquisition Procedures – Town Planner. See discussion above.

There being no further business, Schmitz **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Phelps seconded the motion. Discussion: none. Voting in favor: Webb, Phelps, Ouellette, Schmitz and Zamecnik. Opposed: none. Abstentions: none. The motion was **carried**, 5-0-0. Ulate was not eligible to vote. The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:13 P.M. to the May 10, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Lee Hynes

Sherry Lee Hynes, Clerk

Posted: Town Clerk
Website