



APPROVED MINUTES

Canton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 7:30 pm
Community Center, Room B
40 Dyer Avenue, Canton, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Canton Conservation Commission on September 28, 2016 was called to order at 7:46 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Sarah Faulkner, Jay Kaplan, Hedy Barton, Michael Pendell, William Spatcher and Cynthia Zdanzukas

NOT PRESENT: Maureen Flynn

ALSO PRESENT: Assistant Town Planner Emily Anyzeski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the August 24, 2016 Meeting were reviewed. Upon motion made by J. Kaplan and seconded by H. Barton, the minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Natural Resources Inventory

Commission members briefly discussed writing styles for the various sections of the Inventory (some in more detail, some in more general terms). E. Anyzeski suggested that for some sections, more specific writing would be better. For example, the Wildlife section would be easier for people to relate to, but perhaps more detail in say, the Soils section, would enhance understanding. S. Faulkner suggested that perhaps recommendations about what to do with knowledge gained on each topic could be added to the end of each section (i.e., what types of areas, with which types of soils are better targets for preservation?). Assistant Town Planner Emily Anyzeski was thanked for her work thus far.

Wildlife Section

It was recommended that the first two sentences be moved to the Geology section. H. Barton suggested adding an opening paragraph about wildlife. J. Kaplan indicated that he will be updating this section to add and remove endangered species and he will also be adding Latin names. Endangered species will have an asterisk added. Invasives will be listed with their respective types: plants with plants, animals with animals.

H. Barton suggested changing Coyote to Eastern Coyote.

W. Spatcher added that some of the writing seemed too wordy, while others on the Commission indicated that they are happy with the way the Inventory is being written.

S. Faulkner suggested mention of Cherry Brook and J. Kaplan suggested adding: Farmington River and its Tributaries. J. Kaplan also said that he would add something about "changing land, changing environment" to the Inventory.

W. Spatcher suggested adding a paragraph about "pass-thru" birds (seasonal residents) so that birds such as blue herons and bald eagles were mentioned. J. Kaplan indicated he would do so.

The Commission viewed each of the photos received for the photo contest, via slideshow, courtesy J. Kaplan. After careful viewing and deliberation, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners and 1st, 2nd and 3rd runners-up were chosen. H. Barton will work with E. Anyzeski to draft a press release to announce winners. E. Anyzeski will also send letter to each winner and runner-up. The press release will also announce that the Contest will be re-run with deadline to submit photos by December 31, 2016 to extend the opportunity for folks to submit photos.

The Right to Farm brochure was distributed to all members of the Commission. S. Faulkner stated that the only changes in this draft were different photos. She asked that when the Brochure is on the Board of Selectmen meeting agenda, some Commission members be there to present it to the Board.

S. Faulkner stated that she will draft the Martinelli letter.

At 9:03 p.m., H. Barton was seated as Acting Chair of the Commission and S. Faulkner and J. Kaplan recused them from the meeting.

At that point, the Jepsen parcel and draft letter were discussed. A few grammatical changes were suggested and C. Zdanzukas would be making the corrections to the letter and e-mailing it to E. Anyzeski to print on letterhead and have ready for M. Flynn to sign and send.

At 9:14 p.m., H. Barton stepped down from Acting Chair of the Commission and S. Faulkner resumed her responsibility as Chair of the Commission. J. Kaplan rejoined the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Natural Resources Inventory

Chapter 10 Scenic Resources

H. Barton distributed her draft of this section. S. Faulkner suggested adding State scenic roads. J. Kaplan suggested adding Cherry Brook and valley, Mt. Horr, the bike trail, Secret Lake and the Olson Road scenic view (looking eastward).

Chapter 3 Weather

In the absence of M. Flynn, this item is moved to the October 2016 agenda.

Upcoming meeting dates were determined: October 27, 2016, November 16, 2016 and December 21, 2016 were set. 2017 meeting dates will be determined at the November 2017 Commission meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Staff Report

E. Anyzeski asked each Commission member to review the Annual Report wording and get info to her. S. Faulkner suggested that the State statute be added to the Annual Report.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion made by J. Kaplan and seconded by H. Barton, the September 28, 2016 Conservation Commission meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia M. Zdanzukas
Secretary