

**NORTH STONINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AT NEW TOWN HALL
March 24, 2016 @ 6:00 pm
Minutes**

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
NORTH STONINGTON CT

Mission: For the development, conservation, supervision, and regulation of natural and historic resources, including water resources, within its territorial limits. (adopted September 2007)

Call to Order: 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Bill Ricker, Steve Colgan, Michael Charnetski, Tony Rose, Arnie Vlieks, Doug Farrand,
Regrets: None

Introduction: Doug Farrand was introduced to the CC.

Resignation – Rick Stevens – unable to continue due to medical issues

Review of February minutes (sent via e-mail) – accepted.

Citizen Comments: none

Ongoing Business:

- Letter to WPCA on sewer issues sent – no response. Bill brought this to the attention of the Selectmen (as the DEEP may follow up). This remains outstanding – so will remain on the agenda for now.
- Letter to MPTN Natural Resources Committee – we're on agenda, but their meeting was postponed
 - This is related to the trail from Lake of Isles to Swantown road and our request is to use the trail. Suggestion was made to change the wording – but we do not want to do anything for at least a few months. Note that the tribe is considering closing Lantern Hill trail (garbage issue) – so we need to be diplomatic.
- Land trade update: Ravenswood v. Assekong East – no response from BOS
- Stewart Hill Preserve: **Done**, new trail signs in place. Need to get The Day to cover.
 - We need to wait for approval from the State – then we can cut the spur
 - Will need some small trimming (no trees). Additional signs will be needed – we will figure this out later – but something like “connecting spur to Narragansett trail”
- Wyassup Lake Road CE's: Parcel #8101 and #1857 folders – still on hold
- CE yearly monitoring – **Need to complete**.
Presently: Sacco Subdivision, Shunock Estates, Lake of Isles - done
Three other properties need monitoring:
 - Anna Farm Estates (5 parcels totaling 26.38 ac.) – still outstanding
 - Shunock/Mains Crossing (4 parcels totaling 11 ac.) – question of markers – still outstanding
 - Lakeview West Subdivision (5 parcels totaling 17 ac.) – no markers - still outstanding

- Town does have a GPS that can be used – but this work must be done before the leaves come out and the day must be clear. Action: Arnie and Bill to coordinate a time to get the Town's GPS unit and use GIS software to survey one of the outstanding properties.

New Business:

- Pesticides, herbicides & fertilizer use by lake and pond side residents – Steve & Mike reported Gypsy Moth egg cases
 - There are no tree sprays that can safely be used near lakes and ponds. Even organic treatments are not acceptable.
 - Tree trunks can be injected (Spring or Fall) but can be \$ 550/tree (Bartlett Tree service)
 - Defoliated trees can be helped with fertilizer the next year
 - Pyrethrum is a contact killer for the caterpillars but is deadly for aquatic life
- For lawn fertilization:
 - Best option would be to spread a thin layer of compost on the lawn or do nothing. Mulching mowers are recommended.
 - Fertilizers with Phosphorous (the middle of the 3 numbers) should not be used
 - Pre-emergent crab grass treatment should only be used within 2 weeks of when the forsythia bloom (the bush with the yellow flowers that blooms around the beginning of April)
 - Action: Steve to draft a letter on recommendations for pesticide and fertilizer use and provide to CC for comments. Goal will be to get this info to the 3 lake associations ASAP via email distribution lists.
- Contacting DEEP to cut a trail from Stewart Hill Preserve to Blue Trail – **Application sent**
- Plan site walk of Chester Main Bridle Trail
 - Steve Holiday to help with areas that need to be leveled and one another area. Mucky area to be traversed via railroad ties that are linked together.
 - We need to do a site walk. – Tue or Wed in April – Bill to finalize date with Steve Holiday.
- Notable Trees – need a commissioner to join Bill in taking measurements
 - 3 measurements are needed for each tree
 - ~12 known trees need to be measured initially
 - Other town's notable trees can be viewed on-line
 - Action: CC members to contact Bill with their availability
- CT State Police shooting range – Madeline Jeffery want CC to support her opposing a shooting range on Voluntown boarder. Bill informed her that this is not part of our mission, but contacted DEEP as a courtesy. .

Correspondence: The Habitat, CT Wildlife Magazine, Salt Marsh Restoration brochure,

Member forum: No comments.

Adjournment: 7:30 p.m.