

**ANDOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 27, 2018  
TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM**

**1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.** Present: Michael Palazzi, Maryann Gile, Scott Warren, Meghan Lally (new member), and Gary Gile (new alternate).

**2. Additions/deletions to agenda:** Under “old business,” we added “discussion of invasive plant clean-up on April 14. Under “new business,” we added “discussion of proposed open space acquisition on Lake Road.

**3. Minutes from February 27, 2018 were approved pending two corrections.** (Change “spring cleanup April 14” to “invasive cleanup April 14, and write in that the “town-wide cleanup April 21” was later changed to April 28.)

**4. Public speak:** Gary Gile asked if anything was being done to clear the town-owned trails of tree limbs and branches following the recent nor’easters. Carrie Crompton reported that the Bike/Walk group has been very active clearing trails in the past two weeks.

**5. Old business**

- a. **C.A.R.T. update:** The program is still on a steady course.
- b. **Update on water-temperature monitoring loggers:** Meghan has data for two of the three loggers we set out last summer. Scott will leave the logger he set in place last fall until fall 2018. We will plan to replace the other two before May 31, and add two more loggers for the season: one on Cheney Brook above the Lake, and one on Cheney Brook (aka Blackman’s Brook) below the Lake.
- c. **Town-wide cleanup, April 28:** Carrie has written a grant proposal to The Last Green Valley (TLGV), and given it to Joe Higgins to submit on town letterhead. ALPOA has already advertised the date, time, and meeting places in their newsletter. It was decided in a meeting just prior to the Conservation Commission meeting (Eric Anderson, Michael Palazzi, and Cathy Derosiers) that there will be a general meeting place at the Library/Church parking lots. It is not clear who is going to be coordinating the other groups in town, and advertising about the time and meeting places and requesting volunteers for the jobs of trash picking, truck driving, and recording the project. The Conservation Commission will give instructions regarding the difference between recyclable and nonrecyclable trash (which are to be collected in garbage bags of different colors). Promotion for the event should ask people to bring their own water bottles, so we are not adding to the collection of recyclable trash with purchased water bottles.
- d. **Invasive cleanup April 14.** We agreed to do this at the junction of Lake Road and the Rail Trail. Carrie will send a press release to the *Rivereast* for inclusion on Friday, April 6, and Friday, April 13. She will also send a press release to

Donna Ellis, chairman of CIPWG. Meghan will bring water-temperature loggers to the event. We will set out new logger at Cheney Brook near the Rail Trail (perhaps under the bridge?) and perhaps a few others.

## **6. New business**

- a. We welcomed our new member, Meghan Lally, and our new alternate, Gary Gile.**
- b. Review of CLCC (CT Land Conservation Council) meetings March 17 at Wesleyan:** Maryann attended an interesting workshop on creating “pollinator highways”—encouraging townspeople to plant seeds of plants that are attractive to pollinators. We decided to use some of our annual budget to purchase seeds to be given out at the Andover Library during the month of May to people who would like to participate in creating a pollinator highway in Andover. Mike will ask Maureen about how much \$ is available for seeds. Details to be discussed at the April meeting.
- c.** Maryann also talked with Aaron Budrus (<https://cttrailcensus.uconn.edu>) about setting a “people counter” on the rail trail. We agreed that such a counter might give the town good information to guide us on trail maintenance. Maryann will follow up with Aaron Budrus.
- d.** Maryann also attended a workshop on invasive plant management techniques, which we will share with those who join us to work on April 14.
- e.** Carrie mentioned that the Eastern CT Conservation District (ECCD) has a new grant from Long Island Sound Futures Fund, to provide labor and materials for rain barrels and rain gardens for towns in the Thames Watershed. We discussed this, and decided to request 2 rain barrels for the covered bridge over the rail trail and one for the Andover Library. Carrie will contact ECCD.

## **7. Next meeting: April 24, 2018**

## **8. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.**

**Respectfull submitted,  
Carrie Crompton**