

Town of Andover Conservation Commission

April 30, 2019

Andover Town Hall Community Room

Meeting Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p by Chairman Palazzi.

Regular Members present: Mike Palazzi, Carrie Crompton, Meghan Lally, Scott Warren. Maryann Commissioner M. Gile arrived late. Gary Gile seated for Commissioner Maryann Gile, prior to her arrival. Maryann Gile left at 9:00p.

Public Present: Hank Gruner

**2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

MOTION made by Meghan Lally: Add item f. Nathan Hale Greenway Updates to 6. New Business; Add item d. Pollinator Pathway update to old business.

SECOND: Mike Palazzi

VOTE: 5/0/0. Motion PASSED.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

a) March 26, 2019 Regular Meeting Minute Approval

MOTION made by Scott Warren: Approve minutes with the following corrections:

Correct 5A – “her” should be changed to “the Hebron Andover”.

Correction to 6B. the Giles’ driveway is located on Oak Farms Road not Old Farms Road

SECOND: Gary Gile

VOTE: 5/0/0. Motion PASSED.

b) April 23, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes Approval

MOTION made by Carrie Crompton. Approve the minutes with correction to spelling of Linda Derick’s name.

SECONDED by Chairman Palazzi.

VOTE: 3/0/2. Commissioner Warren and Commissioner Gile abstained; neither was present at the 4/23 meeting.

**4. Public Speak – None**

**5. Old Business:**

a) C.A.R.T. Update

Running smoothly per Chairman Palazzi; still in need of a replacement for the girl scouts.

b) Litter Walk Results

The Last Green Valley provided \$496 towards the cleanup. Mike reported that there appeared to be a substantial amount of recycling in the garbage bags. A total of 78 bags (regular and recyclable) and 45 volunteers were documented. Participating groups included the Conservation Commission, ALPOA, Bike Walk Andover, and the Beautification Commission. The latter was supported by volunteer students from ECSU. A discussion regarding ways to improve event planning in the future followed. Recommendations included having a group leader meeting prior to the event, apply for funding and check for confirmation earlier. Commissioner Lally agreed to write a note of thanks to the partners and volunteers on behalf of the Commission for the next RiverEast.

c) Potential Land Donation Update

Chairman Palazzi, Commissioner Lally, Agent Valente and Tom Talbot walked the Talbot parcel and the Northern Land Trust parcel on Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Steep sloped land so limited development potential but high conservation value including Burnap Brook headwater protection. Commission will continue to look into acquisition options and develop a report to submit to the board of selectman. Agent Valente is interested in conducting a second walk to document the corners of the Northern Land Trust parcel. Commissioner Lally reported Joshua's Trust and the ERT might be able to provide support. A discussion of tax loss to the town occurred; it was reported that the tax loss was believed to be less than \$300. Chairman Palazzi will contact Agent Valente to schedule a second walk. The Giles provided access permission but requested to schedule on a Sunday if possible.

d) Pollinator Pathway

Commissioner M. Gile reported on the pollinator pathway project with the Library. There has been significant interest in the display. Commissioner Crompton reported that she had discussed the possibility of funding seeds with Joan Foran of the Beautification Commission; the BC was supportive but had committed its available funds to another pending project. It is unclear how long the display will remain up. Commissioner Gile recommended establishing a treasurer position in the future to better track commission funds.

## 6. New Business

a) Workshop Report: CT Land Conservation Council Annual Conference

- Commissioner M. Gile reported on a pollinator workshop she attended. The workshop emphasized the importance of spring flowering trees to support pollinators as well as other recommendations. Pollinator-Pathway.org was recommended as a resource for more information as well as [ct.gov/caes/pollinators](http://ct.gov/caes/pollinators). It was suggested groups hold a kick-off event and conduct an activity such as a planting on town lands in the future if they are going to participate in developing a pollinator pathway.
- Commissioner M. Gile also reported on a forest health presentation she attended. The presentation emphasized scientific studies that have documented connections between spending time within a forest and improved personal health.
- Commissioner Crompton reported on the workshops she attended which included the

pollinator workshop, as well as an invasive species removal workshop and two trails planning workshop. Larry Knudson from PennTrails is a retired natural resource professional who specializes in trail planning and design. His presentation focused on the steps required to plan a trail prior to construction and that collaborative planning results in a much more successful project. The final was regarding mountain biking trail construction. The presenters included representatives from the New England Mountain Bike Association who advocated for use of a planning resource developed by NEMBA. The presentation stressed the importance of working with town commissions prior to trail construction to insure identification and protection of environmental resources.

b) New Member to Commission

Hank Gruner expressed an interest in joining the Commission. He described what his goals would be as a commissioner, which included revisiting the core mandates of the commission as outlined in the regulations, such as natural resource inventorying. He is also interested in helping the commission take a more corridor or system approach to planning and conservation, with a particular interest in protection of the Hop River system and other smaller systems (e.g. Bear Swamp, Bishop Swamp) and supporting conservation-based town planning. Concerns regarding being reactionary within a system that is absent a process for land use decisions were discussed. A discussion regarding how a regional planning effort would occur followed. Hank discussed a multi-town effort he was involved in the Farmington area. Volunteers were trained to collect natural resource inventory data, which was then utilized to develop and update town maps. Ultimately those maps were then used to guide town decisions including IWWC and P&Z.

c) CT Natural Resources Oak Tree Presentation

Discussion postponed until May meeting.

d) Discussion of Draft By-Laws

Discussion postponed until May meeting.

e) Trail Funding Expenditures

MOTION made by Carrie Crompton to allocate up to \$1,500 for purchase of town property boundary markers. Marking town lands will assist with planning trails.

SECONDED by Gary Gile.

VOTE 5/0/0. Motion passed.

MOTION made by Meghan Lally to allocate up to \$8,500 for improvements to the Chamberlain Nature Pond parking area and trails. The pond has been proposed as the new trail head for the trails behind the elementary school.

SECONDED by Chairman Palazzi.

VOTE 4/0/1. Motion passed; commissioner Warren abstained.

## **7. Meeting Adjourned**

MOTION: Commissioner Lally motioned to adjourn, seconded by Gary Gile

VOTE: Motion passed 5/0/0.

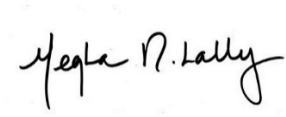
Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

**8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 7:00p in Andover Town Hall.

These meeting minutes are subject to approval by the Town of Andover Conservation Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Meghan N. Lally". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'L'.

Meghan N. Lally