

Andover Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 26, 2019

1. Meeting was called to order at the Town Community Room at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Michael Palazzi, Maryann Gile, Scott Warren, Meghan Lally, Carrie Crompton, and Gary Gile.
2. We made some changes to the agenda:
 - a. changed Old Business – Litter Walk in April – to Invasive Pull March 30
 - b. changed New Business to read:
 - A) Discussion of Andover Trails
 - B) Donation of Two Lots to Andover
 - C) New Members
 - D) IWWC pending application re gravel removal at Andover Auto Parts
 - E) Discussion of CT Natural Resources Oak Tree Presentation
 - F) Discussion of Draft By-Laws
3. Public Speak: George Elliott presented a recommendation to address the lack of accepted procedure with regard to implementing improvements to town-owned lands. He proposes that if a group wants to do development on town-owned land, they should:
 - Submit application to BOS, with maps and description of activity proposed.
 - Copies of application are forwarded to CC and IWWC.
 - CC advises BOS as to potential concerns about environmental impacts.
 - IWWC decides whether a permit is required for work around wetlands, or not.
 - If permit is required, then group submits proposal to IWWC.
 - If approved, then IWWC so advises BOS.
 - BOS makes decision about granting permission to proceed with project.

Julia Haverl agreed with this idea, and added that this topic would be on the agenda for the next BOS meeting. She suggested that the chairpersons of all interested Boards and Commissions meet to come up with guidelines, which could then be run by the town attorney. Once approved, the procedure could be incorporated into the town charter.

4. The minutes of the February 26, 2019 meeting were approved with the correction of two minor typos.
5. OLD BUSINESS
 - A) C.A.R.T. Update. Chairman Palazzi reported that the program was running OK. So far, no group has stepped up to replace the Girl Scouts,

who are retiring from the program in June. Mike will advertise for other groups in the April *Chronicle*. Meg will ask her Mom's Group if they are interested.

- B) Pollinator Pathway. Since we have no money in our budget to purchase seeds, Meg suggested that we partner with the Beautification Committee to purchase perennial seeds for this project. Carrie will contact the Beautification Committee to see if they are interested in this collaboration
- C) Invasive Plant Removal 9-11 a.m. March 30 at Chamberlain Pond. We have permission from John Valente to work around the parking lot, but we must be mindful of stream.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion of bike paths behind Andover Elementary School. Jeff Murray (trail builder), John Valente (inland wetlands agent), Eric Anderson (trail builder), Carol Lee (Recreation Commission) and Julia Haverl (BOS) were present to address the concerns of the Conservation Commission regarding the building of an additional mile of trails behind the school so that there is a full 5K course for bicycle and running races. The consensus appeared to be that the existing trail is a good thing. John Valente said he sees no problems with the proposed extension of that trail; it is in the upland part of the tract. He recommends that if we have money to spend on trail-building, the best use would be to spend it improving access to the trails from Chamberlain Pond, so that users do not have to cross the school playground.
- B. Donation of two parcels of land to the town. One is currently owned by the Northern CT Land Trust, the other by Tom Talbot (who lives in MA). Both are landlocked. The Trust property contains the headwaters for Burnap Brook. John Valente offered to walk the properties to see if there is any contamination on site. If we recommend that the Town accept these properties, the proposal will have to go to a town meeting (as part of a larger town meeting). We scheduled a site walk for Tuesday, April 2, 5:30 p.m., meeting at the Giles' driveway (40 Old Farms Road).
- C. New Members. Hank Gruner said he is interested in becoming a member of the CC beginning July 1, 2019, when Scott Warren retires from the Commission.
- D. Meg announced that there will be an open site walk on the land adjacent to the Andover Auto Parts on Monday, April 1, 6:00 p.m. This is in regards to an application to IWWC to remove gravel from the site over a 2-year period.

- E. We postponed the discussion of the standing dead oaks in town till next meeting
- F. WE postponed the discussion of the CC by-laws until next meeting.
- G. Next meeting is Tuesday, April 30.
- H. Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Crompton

These minutes are subject to approval by the Conservation Commission