

Town of Andover Conservation Commission

January 29, 2019 (Andover Town Hall)

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04p by Chairman Palazzi.

Members present: Maryann Gile, Carrie Crompton, Mike Palazzi, Gary Gile, Meghan Lally, & Scott Warren (late)

2. Additions to the agenda:

- a. Add to new business – 5e. CLCC Conference
- b. Add to new business – 5f. Commission budget

3. Public Speak:

No public speak.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Approval of November 2018 meetings postponed until February meeting.

5. Old Business:

a. Collecting Andover's Recyclable Treasures (C.A.R.T) Program Update

Chairman Palazzi reported that over \$700/group to be distributed to each group for participation over the last 6 months. The Girl Scouts are leaving the program; the commission is looking for a new group to participate as of June 2019. The commitment was discussed. With four groups participating the commitment is one Saturday per month. The group is responsible for separating the returnable containers into a bag of cans and boxes of bottles. A ledger indicating the number of each is then delivered with the bottles and cans to the Hilliard Street redemption center in Manchester. The group is responsible for making the delivery so access to a truck, large SUV or van is needed. The work occurs on Saturday typically from 10a to noon. Interested groups should contact Mike.

b. Pollinator Highway Project Update

Commissioner M. Gile provided an update on the project concept, which includes setting up a special book display at the library and providing patrons with a free packet of seeds. Seed types will be pollinator friendly. A budget discussion ensued; the commission agreed to allocate \$100 towards the purchase of seeds – estimated 50 packets. Commissioner Crompton mentioned that Prairie Nursery sells Xerces Society approved. The Library has agreed to partner but requested that we select the book display. Commissioner Lally provided a hand out on pollinator friendly plants that could serve as part of the display. The timeframe for the project was discussed; tentatively the commission will seek to roll out the display in late April near Earth Day. Publicity was discussed; concern regarding balancing advertising the work of the Commission with the number of available packets was discussed.

It was agreed some basic publicity to advertise the program and raise the profile of the Commission could be beneficial.

- c. Trail Construction Adjacent to the Hop River – Inland Wetlands Permit Review
Commissioner Lally reported that the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission voted to postpone making a decision on the application until the February meeting or later. Concern regarding the width of the proposed trail was discussed. It was noted that standard hiking trail guidelines currently published by major recognized trail leaders including the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, IMBA all state that the standard hiking trail width is 4 feet and the width proposed by the applicant greatly exceeds this amount. It was agreed that the Commission would submit a letter outlining concerns and proposed alternatives to the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission. Commissioner Lally noted that the next meeting is on February 11th and it would be helpful if IWWC commissioners had time to review the letter in advance of the meeting.

6. New Business

- a. Upcoming Grant Opportunities
Commissioner Lally reported that both CT EPOC and CT SWEP have grant cycles open that would allow for application of small grants to support Commission work. Applying for funds to support a UConn NRCA student was discussed. At this time the Commission wasn't prepared to propose a new project; it was recommended the topic be revisited in 2020.
- b. Spring Cleanup Projects
Commissioner Crompton reported on possible locations for spring invasive plant cleanups. Potential locations are all adjacent to the rail trail and without wetlands. Carrie will continue to scope out locations. Scheduled for Saturday, March 30th with a rain date of April 27th. Chairman Palazzi, Commissioner Crompton and Commissioner G. Gile will scout out locations.
- c. Commission Role in Trails.
A discussion regarding concerns related to new trail construction in town occurred. It was noted that while the trails near the ballfields and behind the school are both beneficial for recreation to town residents, builders did not seek input from the Conservation Commission to insure areas of high environmental value were considered nor did they seek Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission approval despite crossing several areas of wetlands in both systems. It was also noted that there is damage, apparently from dirt bikes and ATVs, both on the land around Bishop Swamp and on the land adjacent to Burnap Brook, an area of special concern to the town, on the parcel containing the town transfer station. It was proposed that the Commission lead a larger discussion regarding trail construction in town, particularly on municipally owned lands, to outline which parcels are suitable for new trail construction and which are not based upon natural resource value and other factors.

d. Leadership change in Commission

Chairman Palazzi announced that he would like to step down from the chairman position at the end of the current term; he is interested in remaining on the commission for an additional term. A discussion regarding a replacement chairman ensued; Commissioner Lally expressed interest in potentially serving as chair but would like to discuss further with Chairman Palazzi.

Commissioner Warren also announced that he will not be seeking reappointment in June. Commissioner G. Gile indicated he would be willing to serve as a full commissioner next term; an alternate seat will therefore be open for any town member interested in serving on the Commission during the next term.

e. Budget Update

Chairman Palazzi reported that the 2019 budget is \$500. Of this, approximately \$200 was spent on fall trainings, and it is anticipated another \$200 will be spent on spring training at the CLCC conference. It was agreed that the remaining balance, approximately \$100, would be used for the Pollinator Highway project. Chairman Palazzi will email commission members a copy of the budget.

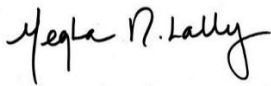
f. CLCC Conference

The commission approved funding for up to three members to register for the conference. Members must register and submit a copy of the registration to the town for payment to be sent.

7. Commissioner Warren motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner M. Gile.
Meeting adjourned at 8:27p.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meghan N. Lally". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Meghan" being more prominent.

Meghan N. Lally