

**Andover Conservation Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 29, 2023
By Zoom
7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Chairman Maryann Gile.

Members present: Mike Palazzi, Evan Aguirre, Carrie Crompton, Gary Gile, Maryann Gile, Hank Gruner, Cathy Shea. **Public present:** Catherine Palazzi

Public Speak. None

Approval of July 5, 2023, minutes: Mike Palazzi moved, Cathy Shea seconded, all approved.

Old Business:

- C.A.R.T update: Each of the four volunteer groups (church group, church food pantry, CERT, and Cub Scouts) received \$1,040 in funds for the 6 months ending in June.
- IWWC/P&Z update: No meaningful updates concerning the IWWC at this time. P&Z chair, Jed Larsen, requested that the Conservation Commission respond to questions 6 through 15 of their POCD survey by September 10th. This task was added to New Business, below. Hank Gruner will attend the September meetings of both groups.
- Sustainable CT update: There was no August meeting so no updates at this time.
- Treasurer's Report: Evan Aguirre reported that there is \$565 from July 1st and that he will watch and keep track of anything that is taken out of the account.
- Natural Resources Inventory Planning, continued: The commission furthered their discussion of the proposed changes to the three open space corridors with a more detailed view of potential connectivity between existing open spaces and adjacency for areas of potential aggregation/build-out. All three corridors were slightly expanded in order to include actual protected lands, the Hop River Trail, and other ecological areas that will help the town to be more strategic with proposed projects.

It was decided that more research is needed in order to better understand some of the parcels and their protected status. Hank Gruner and Cathy Shea will convene in September to identify parcels needing more information and Cathy will work with Town Hall to obtain the needed information.

The next goal, now that the mapping tool has all of the needed conservation layers, will be to identify specific parcels for each conservation value (biodiversity, soils, connectivity, etc.) so that we can take a data-driven approach to our recommendations for the POCD.

- Annual Report: Maryann Gile will put together a draft and send to commission members to review.

New Business:

- Completion of Questions 6 through 15 from the Planning and Zoning Survey related to the status of recommendations from the 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development: The completion and submission of the survey questions was performed as a group by the full commission. Most of the recommendations were either largely complete but still in progress or largely incomplete but still in progress, although the completeness and/or relevancy of a couple were in question. Maryann Gile will reply to Jed Larsen to confirm that the group has completed the questions and submitted the survey.
- P&Z/IWWC Presentation – Hank mentioned that he had spoken to Jed Larsen about the possibility of presenting to the P&Z (and to IWWC) at one of its meetings to provide a brief update on where the Conservation Commission stands with respect to Chapter 8 of the POCD so that we can sync them up on the work we have done and are currently doing.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 26, 2023; Gary Gile to take minutes.

Future Meeting Minutes Schedule

Oct. 31 – Evan Aguirre
 Nov. 28 -- Hank Gruner
 Dec. 26 – Mike Palazzi
 Jan. 31 – Carrie Crompton
 Feb. 28 – Cathy Shea
 March 28 – Evan Aguirre
 April 25 – Hank Gruner
 May 30 – Mike Palazzi
 June 27 – Carrie Crompton

Adjournment: Carrie moved, Hank seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Shea