Town of Canaan

Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission

Minutes of Zoom Meeting

January 18, 2022

Members Present: Mark Burdick, Brant Burz, Susan Kelsey, Ellery Sinclair

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Burdick. Minutes of December 20, 2021 were reviewed. Motion made by Sinclair to approve minutes as presented; seconded by Burz; passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**1. Railroad Spraying:** Sinclair reported that he and Stacey Weiner of HRC continue to work with legislators to garner support to enact legislation to regulate spraying along the railroad in areas in or near wetlands and watercourses.

**2.** **The Nature Conservancy /Sustainable CT Workshop:** Members reviewed an update prepared by Jones regarding the workshop to be conducted by TNC to be held in early March. 15 people will be selected from the community to participate in a 4 hour ‘Community Resiliency Workshop’. The purpose of the workshop is to determine an appropriate project in which the Town will become engaged.

**3. Cobble Hill Property Donation to The Nature Conservancy:** Sinclair reported that Julia Sinclair Wilson has donated 16 acres located on Cobble Hill to The Nature Conservancy. This property is adjacent to other land owned by The Nature Conservancy. Forino property on the top of the Cobble remains on the market.

**4. Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center:** The permit for demolition of a building has been issued.

**New Business:**

**1. Alternate Member Recommendation:** Sinclair reported that Karl Munson has agreed to serve as an alternate member on the Commission. By consensus, members agreed that his appointment be recommended to the Board of Selectmen. Sinclair will contact the Selectmen of the Commission’s recommendation.

**2. Housatonic Meadows Public Hearing:** Sinclair and Kelsey reported on the zoom public hearing held in response to public dissatisfaction regarding the extensive tree cutting occurring at the park. The cutting was prescribed due to apparent safety concerns among the white pines and general tree decline among the oaks due partly to the recent gypsy moth infestation. Numerous individuals commented that arborists should be involved when making decisions regarding hazardous tree removal in state parks. The DEEP acknowledged being remiss in communicating with the public and asking for public input prior to initiating the harvest. The Department committed to ensuring increased communication and public involvement prior to initiating future tree removals in highly used areas.

**3. Routing Sheets:** none

**4. Communications:**

 **a. Annual Report:** A memo was received from the Town Clerk that annual reports are due. Kelsey will submit a report.

Sinclair made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.; seconded by Burz; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary