Town of Canaan

Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission

Minutes of October 17, 2022 (zoom)

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chairman Burdick. Jones made motion to approve minutes of September 19, 2022; seconded by Sinclair; approved unanimously.

**Public Input:** None.

**Old Business:**

**1. Railroad Spraying Update:** Sinclair reported there will be another meeting on November 3rd of individuals advocating railroad herbicide spraying regulations. Sinclair read a draft letter that is anticipated to be sent to various individuals and groups, including selectmen of towns along the river, Inland Wetland/Conservation Commissions, The Lakeville Journal, Council on Environmental Quality and state legislators. The letter strongly emphasizes the need for this legislation. The group is hoping to garner comments from concerned individuals. Commission members commended Sinclair on his draft letter.

**2. Elm Tree Treatment:** Kelsey will contact Tim Downs to ascertain what the plan is for the elm tree trunk that remains on Main Street. Sinclair will contact Bartlett Tree to find out what they learned regarding the health status of the remaining two elms during their recent site visit.

**3. Sustainable CT:** Jones reported that to date, there has not been a follow-up meeting with those individuals interested in commenting on the agricultural portion of the report prepared by The Nature Conservancy in conjunction with Sustainable CT. Jones suggested that sometime later this fall or even in January may be the time to hold the meeting. She also expressed a desire to have someone else take the lead and will ask Janna at Adamah Farm to see if she would be willing to take the lead in facilitating said meeting. Burdick encouraged non-agricultural people who had expressed interest in becoming more educated about agriculture, to also be included. He reiterated that the goal of the meeting is to get changes made in the TNC report so that it more accurately reflects our town.

**New Business:**

**1. Beaver/Road Flooding Route 126:** Kelsey informed members that beavers are causing flooding conditions at Tinker Brook on Route 126, between Amy Road and Johnson Road. Burdick will check with selectmen to alert them to the situation.

**2.** **Future Commission Membership:** Jones informed Commission that she is considering resigning from the Commission due to other commitments. She suggested Dan Carr as a possible replacement; Burdick will contact Carr. Matthew Gallagher at Great Mountain Forest is another possibility. Jones shared that Sadeh, currently an alternate, is more interested in committing his time to conservation issues, such as composting. Dave Barger is the selectman taking the lead in researching composting for the Town. Burdick will talk with Barger to see if he would like a tour of Freund’s and Jacquier’s composting operation.

**Routing Sheets:** None.

**Communications:** None.

Sinclair made a motion to adjourn at 7:58; seconded by Jones; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, Secretary