

Town of Canaan
Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 19, 2022

Members Present: Mark Burdick, Felicia Jones, Ellery Sinclair, Susan Kelsey
Others Present: Chris Kinsella, Matt Gallagher

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Burdick. Jones made motion to accept minutes of November 21, 2022; seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously. Jones made motion to accept minutes of special meeting of December 1, 2022; seconded by Burdick; passed unanimously.

Public Input: None.

Old Business:

Railroad Herbicide Spraying: Sinclair reported that the ad hoc group working to achieve legislation regarding spraying along the railroad right of way has endorsed his letter to be sent out to key individuals. They are concerned about the lack of direct evidence of the impact of said spraying, particularly in regards to pollution of potentially impacted wetlands and watercourses. The group has established a working relationship with a board member of the Housatonic Railroad. The group's mission is to achieve a compromise/agreement with the railroad.

Sustainable CT: Jones reported that Dan Carr will be the lead person of the Community Resilience Program. There will be a meeting of a subgroup to discuss concerns specifically pertinent to agriculture. There will be a town meeting in January regarding the option of installation of fiber optics for the Town.

Commission Members: Matt Gallagher has agreed to serve as an alternate member; Kelsey will ask Selectman Todd to appoint him. Gallagher is a CT licensed forester and is director of Forest Operations at Great Mountain Forest. Chris Kinsella will consider serving also as an alternate and will notify the Commission at its next meeting of his decision. Jones intends to continue serving as a regular member for the time being.

Cobble Road Bridge Replacement: The permit for said bridge was issued to applicant First Selectman Todd for the Town of Canaan. Kinsella will inquire with lead person Selectman Marlow regarding the next steps involving putting the job out to bid.

New Business:

Town Plan of Conservation and Development: Members discussed the survey sent out to members of town boards by Glen Chalder, the consultant hired by P&Z to prepare the next Town Plan of C & D. Members, as individuals, have responded to the survey. Concern was expressed that our Commission, being, in part, a 'Conservation' Commission, has not been asked to play a greater role in the plan's preparation. Sinclair made a motion that an email be sent to Chalder requesting that the Commission, as an entity, be approached for input to the plan (in addition to the responses solicited as individuals through the survey); seconded by Jones; passed unanimously. Burdick will send said email to Chalder.

Election of Officers/Meeting Dates: Sinclair made a motion that the current slate of officers (Burdick – Chairman; Sinclair – Vice Chairman; Kelsey – Secretary) be re-elected for the year 2023; seconded by Jones; passed unanimously. The Commission will continue to meet the third Monday of the month; if said Monday is a holiday, the meeting will be held the next day (Tuesday).

Aquarion Driveway: Kelsey informed Commission that the driveway off Canaan Mountain Road to the Aquarion water treatment facility has been upgraded with the placement of significant fill and questioned whether said activity involved wetlands. Kelsey will review soils map.

Routing Sheets: None.

Communications:

Budget: Year-to-date expenses: \$0.00; \$2,250.00 remains in budget. Kelsey will submit bill for secretarial services.

Kelsey made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m; seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary.