

TOWN OF CANAAN
INLAND WETLANDS/CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR (zoom) MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Members Present: Mark Burdick, Felicia Jones, Ellery Sinclair, Susan Kelsey
Others Present: Marleen VanGulick (pending alternate member)

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Burdick at 7:03 p.m. Motion made by Jones to approve minutes of January 17, 2023 as presented; seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously.

Public Input: none

Old Business:

1. Railroad Spraying: Sinclair reported that the Housatonic Herbicide Working Group continues to work on attaining support for railroad herbicide spraying legislation. It is putting together a packet of information to be distributed to the Selectpersons and the Inland Wetlands/ Conservation Commissions of the 6 river towns; packet may also be sent to the CEQ, Maria Horn, state senators and the DEEP. Said packet is to contain a summary of the identity of the HHWG and its goals, a comparison of the Massachusetts and Connecticut railroad herbicide legislation/regulations, a history of Cornwall's experiences with said spraying, and letters of support from the Inland Wetland / Conservation Commissions and the HRC. Sinclair requested that the Commission put in writing that it endorses the work the HHWG is doing for inclusion in the packet. Kelsey made a motion that by virtue of this motion, the Commission formally endorses further investigation into the current practices of railroad spraying associated with the Housatonic Railroad, in addition to encouraging legislation that would result in enhanced environmental sensitivity pertinent to vegetation management practices; seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously. Kelsey will send Sinclair copy of minutes for inclusion in the packet as soon as they are available.

2. Sustainable CT: Jones informed the Commission she will be moving later this year and is looking for someone to assume leadership of Sustainable CT in our town; subsequent to her departure there likely will not be anyone serving the role of Economic Development advisor. Siller and Carr will continue to be the lead people for the resiliency aspect, particularly in regards to agriculture. Discussion ensued regarding the future of Sustainable CT and possible solutions to its continuance in Falls Village. Jones suggested possibly creating a position with a stipend for said leadership and will suggest this to the Selectmen.

3. Commission Alternates: Marlene VanGulick has agreed to serve as an alternate member of the commission. By consent, the Commission agreed to have Burdick write letter to the First Selectman, asking that VanGulick be appointed an alternate.

4. Cobble Road: Burdick reported having read in the newspaper that there is no State funding available this year for the repair of the bridge/culvert.

5. Town Plan of Conservation and Development: Jones said that Glen Chalder has reviewed the general public survey and that he does want input from the

commissions. Members agreed to have ideas ready for submission to Chalder at our March meeting.

6. Aquarion Driveway: Kelsey said that under our inland wetland regulations, water companies, by allowed use of right, can conduct various construction activities without the need to obtain a permit; whether driveway construction falls under this umbrella is unclear. Kelsey will refer to the State statutes for clarification.

New Business:

1. April/Earth Day Roadside Clean-up: Kelsey suggested encouraging town residents to participate in cleaning our roadsides of garbage, having observed numerous residents regularly taking walks throughout town. Consensus was that social media would be a more effective way to reach out to residents, rather than Kelsey's suggestion of posters. VanGulick volunteered to post an item on social media and to reach out to the local school. Sinclair made a motion that the Commission approve up to \$300.00 to support some form of Earth Day clean-up activity; seconded by Jones; passed unanimously.

2. Composting: Burdick reported that residents from Cornwall visited Litchfield's composting program and as a result feels that Cornwall could also institute a composting program. Burdick questioned the feasibility of this, in light of the apparent stringent State regulations governing composting; he will do further research. There will be two opportunities for town residents to learn more about possible composting plans in our town (Transfer Station on March 4th from 4-5 p.m. and the D.M. Hunt Library on March 10th at 4 p.m.)

Routing Sheets: none

Communications:

1. Northwest Conservation District: A request was received by the Town for financial support of \$600.00. Kelsey will check with the treasurer to ascertain information regarding past giving.

2. Budget: \$1,770.00 is left in this fiscal year's budget. Sinclair made a motion that the IW/CC submit a budget request for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$2,250.00.

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary