

Town of Canaan
Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 18, 2023

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

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chairman Burdick. Minutes of November 20, 2023 were reviewed. Sinclair made a motion to approve minutes as presented; seconded by Burz; approved unanimously.

Public Input: none.

Old Business:

- 1. Housatonic River Working Group:** Sinclair summarized to date, the accomplishments of the Working Group. Recently there had been a meeting with Maria Horn, who supports the Group's efforts and its goal of obtaining legislative regulations regarding herbicide use and spraying by railroads in the State. Steve Harding also supports the Group's efforts. Representatives of the Housatonic Railroad still remain uncommunicative with the Working Group.
- 2. Community Fuelwood Program Update:** none.
- 3. Flaton/Lancto, 166 Undermountain Road:** Burz reported that to date, the installed silt fencing appears to have been installed properly and is functioning well, although additional placement of hay for stabilization might also be considered. Kelsey will inspect the site after the predicted heavy rainfall.
- 4. Town Plan of Conservation and Development:** Sinclair reported he had reviewed the Plan and that the proposal to create a new roadway off of Route 7 South to Railroad Street has been omitted from the plan. The Commission's recommendations regarding herbicide use along roads in our Town has been included.

New Business:

- 1. Coolidge Property Development, Beebe Hill:** Members discussed a possible subdivision being considered on the Coolidge property. Kelsey reminded members of a King's Mark study done of the property precipitated by severe drainage runoff, impacting Beebe Hill Road, Deer Road, Amy Road, and Route 126. Kelsey will attempt to find the report. Members conjectured whether there would be merit in recommending that development be planned in a manner so as to not compromise the agricultural land. Consensus was that it might be more effective to make recommendations and express concerns early on during the planning stages. Sinclair will draft a letter to the property owner, with copies to go to the engineer, Planning and Zoning, and the Board of Selectmen.
- 2. Election of Officers for 2024:** Sinclair made a motion that we continue with the current slate of officers (Burdick – Chairman; Sinclair – Vice Chairman; Kelsey – Secretary); seconded by Burz; passed unanimously.
- 3. Meeting Dates for 2024:** Members agreed to continue to hold meetings the third Monday of the month; if said Monday is a holiday, the meeting will occur the next day (Tuesday).

4. Cobble Hill Purchase: Sinclair reported that he was aware that Cobble Hill had recently been sold by the Forino family. Members commented on how it is an important landmark in our Town and reminisced on the role the Commission had played in its protection.

Routing Sheets: none

Communications:

1. Annual Report: A memo was received from the town clerk requesting that annual reports be submitted prior to the end of the year. Kelsey will write and submit the report.

Burz made a motion to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.; seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary