

COLUMBIA CONSERVATION AND AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 2, 2013– 7:00 p.m.

Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room

323 Route 87, Columbia, CT

Members Present: Jim Corso, Chair Linda McDonald, Vice-Chair Margaret Verizzi, Ann Dunnack, Paul Ramsey

Members Excused: David Szegda

Others Present: Andrea Stannard, Walter Tabor, Nancy Tabor, Gregory Bugbee from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, Jordan Gibbons from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, and residents living around Mono Pond

Call to Order: L. McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Changes/Additions to the Agenda: None.

Audience of Citizens: Nancy Tabor said she would like to join the Board. L. McDonald said the first step would be to send something in writing to the Town Administrator or Board of Selectmen (BOS) to express her interest. The BOS would make the appointment.

Approval of the April 4, 2013 regular meeting minutes: M. Verizzi MOVED to APPROVE the April 4, 2013 regular meeting minutes as presented. P. Ramsey SECONDED.
MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.

1. NEW BUSINESS: Guest speaker Gregory Bugbee from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station on invasive plants in Mono Pond:

G. Bugbee and J. Gibbons gave a power point presentation on the results of a survey conducted on Mono Pond from September 14-19, 2012. Three invasive aquatic species were found in the pond: Fanwort, Variable Watermilfoil, and Brazilian Waterweed. Some means by which these invasive species can be introduced into the pond are by boat trailers, birds, and aquarium dumping. Analysis of the water chemistry of Mono Pond found the water to be very clean and low in phosphorus.

A way for the residents to help manage the vegetation through nutrient reduction is controlling septic system run-off, erosion control measures and good fertilizer practices.

G. Bugbee discussed several methods of managing the invasive species: Harvesting by hand or machine, winter draw down of the pond, herbicides, biological control (i.e. introducing grass carp into the water), and dredging. All methods of management are costly.

L. McDonald informed members of the audience that the Commission will be seeking their input as the issue of the invasive aquatic species is discussed.

The Board thanked G. Bugbee and J. Gibbons for their informative presentation.

Before getting to the discussion of old business, L. McDonald welcomed P. Ramsey to the Board.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- 2.1** OxenFest Update (June 1, 2013): A. Stannard from the Historical Society updated the Board on the progress to date. L. McDonald said publicity will be sent to the Hartford Courant, The Chronicle, the Reminder News, Channel CTV14, and on the Town Green sign. She will check with the Town Administrator on placing directional signage day of event. A. Dunnack will arrange for a public hand washing station at the event. Volunteers are asked to report at 10:00 a.m.
- 2.2** Rain Garden Workshop Wrap-up: L. McDonald reported that although turnout was low, the presentation by Michael Dietz was quite informative and interesting and the audience asked many questions.
- 2.3** PZC/IWWC Applications & Site Walks: L. McDonald reported that there are no PZC or IWWC matters to bring before the Board.
- 2.4** Conservation Easements Monitoring: Discussion on this item was tabled.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- 4. BOARD COMMENTS:** M. Verizzi said that this would be her last meeting as she was resigning from the Commission. On behalf of the Board, L. McDonald thanked her for her service and is sorry to see her leave.
- 5. ADJOURNMENT:** A. Dunnack MOVED to ADJORN the meeting at 9:20 p.m. P. Ramsey SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 5:0:0.