

## Columbia Conservation and Agriculture Commission

Regular Meeting Thursday, January 8, 2015

### Minutes Draft

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Present: Members Paul Ramsey, Tom McGrath, Christopher Tolsdorf, Christopher McGrath

Absent : Members Ann Dunnack, Walt Tabor

Approval of Minutes: 12/4/2014 motion made by Chris Tolsdorf, Tom McGrath, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Audience of Citizens: Anthony Ortiz, Bob Ulkus, David Bull, Nancy Schwartz

#### 1. Old Business

##### 1.1 Town Agricultural Grant

- In December Jonathan Luiz gave an update on where the grant is in the process.
  - Planning to put \$17,000 in the budget, **we need to check to see if it is there Tom McGrath will email interim town manager**

##### 1.2 Mono Pond Invasive Aquatic Plants

- In December Jonathan Luiz gave an update on Mono Pond.
  - Planning to put \$9,920 in the budget based on Dr Courtman's estimates on doing additional evaluations of **Mono Pond** and reviewing the feasibility of the different plans, **we need to check to see if it is there Tom McGrath will email interim town manager**

##### 1.3 Conservation Easement Monitoring

- Tom McGrath, Chris McGrath, Gail McGrath performed easement monitoring on 5 properties on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Reports were sent to Linda Macdonald for review and to get appropriate violation letters sent out

##### 1.4 Trail Maintenance

- Tom McGrath reported that the Island Woods trails and the Szegda Farm trails were in good shape as of a month ago.
- Anthony Ortiz walked the trails at Szegda Farm this past weekend and said they were in good shape

## 2. New Business

### 2.1 Earth Day 2015 – April 22<sup>nd</sup> ?

- Paul Ramsey suggested we work on doing a pick up trash day.

### 2.2 Collaboration with Historical Society's April Program

- Ann Dunnack needs to report back to committee on what is being planned.
- Historical Society meeting Thursday 12/11 at 7pm at Meeting Place - Tom McGrath met with them to discuss creating a subcommittee "Friends of Szegda Farm" so that donations could be collected to help with the improvements of Szegda Farm and with making permanent historical displays. The idea was met with some support as long as Tom McGrath to on the work load associated with it. Need to meet again with them to see if it will go anywhere

### 2.3 Programming for Spring

- Farm Tours – Anthony Ortiz offered that doing a tour of Ron Szegda's or other farm might be a possibility
- Easements – do another presentation on educating the community on what easements are
- Mono Pond – do a walk on the trails at Mono Pond discuss invasive species and keeping them off boats and trailers ( protecting Columbia Lake)

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McGrath