

Columbia Conservation and Agriculture Commission

Regular Meeting Thursday, May 7, 2015

Minutes

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

Present: Members Paul Ramsey, Anthony Ortiz, Tom McGrath, Chris McGrath, Ann Dunnack, Walt Tabor

Approval of Minutes: 3/5/2015 motion made by Paul Ramsey, Walt Tabor 2nd, passed unanimously

Audience of Citizens: none, Welcome to new member Anthony Ortiz

1. Old Business

1.1 Town Agricultural Grant

- There was no money appropriated in the 2015-16 budget.

1.2 Mono Pond Invasive Aquatic Plants

- Dr Kortman is supposed to look at Mono Pond this year.
- Mono Pond neighbors questioned this past winters fish kill

1.3 Conservation Easement Monitoring

- Tom and Chris McGrath will resume the easement monitoring in June.

1.4 Trail Maintenance

- Tom McGrath reported that he will be checking the Island Woods trails and the Szegda Farm trails in next few days.
- Ann Dunnack reported Utley Hill trails in good shape. UCONN ECO group planning to put a bridge in on the trails August 28th. Cub Scouts worked on the Utley trails for conservation badge.

2. New Business

2.1 PZC/IWWCC site walk/reviews

- Need to have CCAG put on the checklist for PZC applications – for template for Conservation Easements
- Changes coming for zoning regarding high density 55+ developments

2.2 Planning projects

- Farm Tours – Anthony Ortiz to head up. Will look to doing tours of local farms possibly 1 a month based on the type of activity going on. Orchards in the Fall ? Maple Syrup in March etc. Possibly as some sort of scavenger hunt or photo opportunity.

- Szegda Farm – Anthony Ortiz/Tom McGrath .. to work with Walt Tabor, Scott Keegan, Dave Tuttle, Ron Szegda and others. to try and get the back field cleaned up (spray to kill off, brush hog, plow under, reseed, manure).. so that it can be a productive hay field in the future for someone.

2.3 Other

- Need to update the brochure published by town on farms in town.. with date of publication and contact for publication. Should consider mailing out to all who are listed on brochure asking for updates and any missing farms
- Need to get copies of Handbook for CT Conservation Commissions to CCAG members

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McGrath