

Columbia Conservation and Agriculture Commission

Regular Meeting Thursday, May 1, 2014

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:04.

Present: Members Christopher Tolsdorf, Paul Ramsey, Walt Tabor, Tom McGrath, and Ann Dunnack.
Also present: Raymond Covino.

1. Old Business:

1.1 Town Agricultural Grant

Chris Tolsdorf gave an overview of where we are on the final draft of the proposal. Ann suggested that we try to get on the BOS agenda for May 15th, or May 20th.

1.2 Mono Pond Invasive Aquatic Plants

Paul Ramsey gave an overview. The 2012 study of Mono pond identified 3 invasive species (Fanwort, Brazilian waterweed, Variable Milfoil). 2 Companies in Massachusetts had been contacted and they estimated the cost to be \$25,000 for first year for chemical treatment and that the chemical treatment costs would go down year after year. Members of the CCAC met with the Columbia Lake Management Committee and the CLMC is very much in support of treating Mono Pond. The fear is that boats contaminated at Mono pond will be used in Columbia lake and that Columbia lake will become invaded. Still trying to get the CT DEEP to participate in cost sharing partnership of chemical treatment of Mono pond either directly or through grants.

The presentation by Charlotte Pyle will take place on May 15 at 7 PM at the Beckish Senior Center. Ann will organize refreshments.

1.3 Szegda Farm Heritage Trails Day – June 7th 11am-2pm

Chris McGrath supplied posters to review. The posters will be used to publicize this event.

Ann Dunnack gave an overview. Goats, Sheep, Chickens will be there. Walt Tabor will mow areas prior to event. Ann will get chairs and tables from George Murphy.

1.4 Conservation Easement Monitoring

Tom and Chris McGrath are updating the letter that is used to notify property owners of the monitoring procedure . Linda McDonald will be the contact for the Town.

2. New Business

2.1 Earth Day 2015

Possible events discussed

- Adopt a Road town wide cleanup
- Photo Contest
- Trail Maintenance and hikes
- Trail Competition (scavenger hunt, letter boxing, pictures, games)
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2.2 Invasive Species presentation Thursday May 15th at the Senior Center at 7pm

Advertised with – The Chronicle, Reminder, did not get in the Crossroads

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McGrath