

Columbia Conservation and Agriculture Commission

Regular Meeting Thursday, June 5, 2014

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:15.

Present: Members Paul Ramsey, Walt Tabor, Tom McGrath, Christopher McGrath and Ann Dunnack.

Audience of Citizens: None

1. Old Business:

1.1 Town Agricultural Grant

CCAC attended the BOS meeting on 06/03/2014 to present the draft of the Agricultural Grant

The concept was well received. BOS asked the CCAC to take it back and refine it and to answer some questions they had.

The BOS was also interested in learning more about the CT tax abatement program(s).

Jonathan Luiz offered to work with the CCAC on rewording and clarifying document but he is only available during business hours. Currently the plan is for Ann Dunnack, Chris Tolsdorf, Jim Corso to meet with Jonathan.

Some of BOS questions were in regards to "Who is the farmer that can apply" and who are we excluding. And basically they were interested in more examples of what they can apply for.

Discussion also on if the CCAC is the one that decides who get the grants does that exclude the CCAC members from applying for the grants for themselves

1.2 Mono Pond Invasive Aquatic Plants

Paul Ramsey sponsored the presentation by Charlotte Pyle that took place on May 15 at 7 PM at the Beckish Senior Center. Ann organized refreshments.

Tom McGrath, over the past month or so, had several conversations with Chuck Lee from the CT DEEP Lakes Management Program. Mr Lee said there is supposed to be some Grant Money \$200k available on 2014/07/01 for Aquatic Plant Control through CT DEEP Fisheries area.

Tom contacted Dominic Meringolo of Aquatic Control Technology and asked him to forward an updated proposal for Mono Pond to Jonathan Luiz.

CCAC will ask the BOS to move forward with a Grant Application to CT DEEP based on ACT's proposal ASAP.

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

Event is still on.

There have been issues with the tractor breaking down. Walt Tabor was able to get in and brush hog a large area near the pole barn. Gary King and Tom McGrath have been working on cleaning up the trails

Ann Dunnack noted that the blacksmiths demonstration was canceled by the presenters and that there may not be any sheep at the farm for the event. But yes the antique cars were still scheduled along with the Folk singer. TOC Rec Commission will be supplying hot dogs and soda for sale.

1.4 Conservation Easement Monitoring

No activity

2. New Business

2.1 Earth Day 2015

No activity

2.2 Trail Maintenance

Ann Dunnack is maintaining the Ultey Hill and Rec Park Trails

Tom McGrath is maintaining the Island Woods/Mono Pond Trails

Gary King/Tom McGrath are maintaining the Szegda Farm Trails

Potter Meadow is maintained by Joshua's Trust

Airline Trail and Hop River Trail are being maintained by public works

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McGrath