

# Columbia Conservation and Agriculture Commission

## Regular Meeting March 6, 2015

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM

Present: Members Ann Dunnack, Paul Ramsey, Walt Tabor, Chris Tolsdorf. Audience Anthony Ortiz

The Minutes of February 5, 2015 were approved 4-0.

#### 1. Old Business

- 1.1 Town Agricultural Grant: A public hearings for next year's budget with the Selectman and FIPAC have not been announced. Ann will inform the Commission when they are announced so that we can attend to support the Grant which is currently still in the budget in he amount of \$17,000.

On a related issue Walt Tabor raised a concern that each year volunteers have mowed the Szegda Farm fields at their own expense. The town needs to support this rather substantial effort by at least offering to pay for fuel for the heavy equipment that is needed for this task. Paul Ramsey raised a concern that the town has not fulfilled their obligation, as stated in their agreement with the State, to plow the parking lot at Mono Pond. As a result ice fisherman, skaters, and others wishing to use the lake have had to park on Hunt Rd., which is a safety hazard. Ann will bring these issues to the Selectman's attention.

- 1.2 Mono Pond Invasive Aquatic Plants: Ann attended the Columbia Lake Management Committee meeting on March 4. Dr. Kortman gave a presentation and, in response to a question, indicated that it would be very harmful if the invasive plants, such as fanwort, from Mono Pond were to migrate to Columbia Lake. He discussed management techniques, including non-chemical approaches, which could be used.

1.3 Conservation Easement Monitoring: No activity this month.

1.4 Trail Maintenance: No activity this month

#### 2. Old Business

2.1 Earth Day: No activity is planned.

2.2 Collaboration with Historical Society April 10 Program: The program will focus on this history of farming in Columbia. Five area farmers will share their

experiences and the history of their farms. The meeting will take place at the Congregational Church Fellowship Hall. There is also a display at the Library as well as a display of antique farm implements and a display of the history of Szegda Farm.

2.3 May Photography Show: Russ Haddad will display his photographs of Columbia farms at the Library from 3 to 6 PM. There will be live music by the Jim Blair Band and refreshments will be served. Ann Dunnack moved to contribute \$150 from the CCAG account to help cover the cost of the entertainment. Walt Tabor seconded the motion which then passed unanimously.

2.4 CLCC March 21: Ann Dunnack and Paul Ramsey will represent the CCAC at this year's conference.

2.5 PZC/WWCC A senior housing development at the Middleman parcel in the center of town will be presented to the town. The proposal includes an Open Space set aside or fee-in-lieu-of.. More information will follow.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Chris Tolsdorf

Received: March 9, 2015  
At 8:38 AM  
Attest: Paul L. McMath  
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk ASST  
TC