

Columbia Conservation Commission

Meeting May 5, 2016

Minutes

Present: Ann Dunnack, Paul Ramsey, Chris Tolsdorf, Anthony Ortiz, Tom McGrath, Chris McGrath

Minutes of March 3, 2016 were approved.

1. Old business

1.1 Conservation Easement monitoring: tabled

1.2 Trail Maintenance: Mono Pond needs work trimming brush, painting blazes, need brochures for guided walk.

1.3 Farm Tours: Anthony working on a tour of Tabor's Farm for August 27th to tie in with Columbia Farmers Market.

1.3b Youth In Conservation: Ann met with Jonathon Trumbull Girl Scout Service unit for Lebanon and Columbia asking them to do a service project "Town-wide games" that involved visiting different locations in Columbia.. e.g. (Passport, Letter boxing, Picture of family at specific sites and winning a prize for completing all the locations)

Anthony interested in getting Boy Scouts or others involved with the Haying operations at Ron Szegda's farm, an excellent learning experience to introduce agriculture to the youth.

1.4 Mono Pond Invasive Aquatic Plants: Paul stated that there will not be a study of Mono Pond during the 2016 year. Currently considering it a stable eco system. Need to try and get it in budget for 2017.

2. New Business

2.1 PZC/IWWCC site walks/reviews: none at this time.

2.2 Columbia Energy Conservation Committee: Tabled, No one from committee attended this meeting.

2.3 Participation in regional conservation districts may be beneficial. Salmon River Watershed Consortium and Eastern CT Conservation District are two possibilities. Salmon River – Bryan Tarbell is representing the Town of Columbia. CCA – may start participating as it relates to the watershed from Wellswoods properties

2.4 CLCC Annual Conference March 19, 2016 in Middletown: Ann and Paul attended. Both felt it was worthwhile, discussions on using drones for conservation easement monitoring, and modern forest management techniques for selective cutting to generate income from protected forest properties

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McGrath