

Columbia Conservation and Agriculture Commission

Thursday, August 6, 2015

Minutes

Present: Ann Dunnack, Christopher Tolsdorf, Christopher McGrath, Anthony Ortiz, Paul Ramsey. Excused: Walt Tabor, Tom McGrath.

The minutes of the 7/2/2015 meeting were approved unanimously.

1.0 Old Business:

1.1 Paul Ramsey reported to the Commission about Dr. Kortman's presentation at the 7/7/2014 Board of Selectmen meeting. Dr. Kortman plans to hire a scuba team to do a thorough inventory of plant life in Columbia Lake. He also will do an inventory of plant and animal life in Mono Pond, water quality, etc. He will then study the Pond over time, measuring rainfall and fill rate. Several members expressed interest in joining the committee that would review the results of the study and make recommendations to BOS.

1.2 Conservation Easements: no report

1.3 Trail Maintenance: no report

1.4 Farm Tours: Anthony is planning to have the first tour on August 30 at Walt Tabor's farm and Jim Corso's farm.

1.5 Columbia Market: Ann will set up a theme connecting people and especially children to nature. Anthony will make a display advertising the Farm Tour.

1.6 Members conducted a work session on reviewing and revising the chapter of the POCD concerning Agriculture.

1.7 Squire Subdivision: no report

2.0 New Business

2.1 PZC/IWWCC: no report

2.2 Farm Building tax exemption: Chris McGrath presented some work he has done on an application that would simplify the process. Tom McGrath has volunteered to spear-head this project. Chris Tolsdorf moved, and Paul Ramsey seconded to Propose to the Board of

Selectmen to offer a limited Tax Exemption on Farm Buildings, to promote and preserve local agriculture. (5-0-0)

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Dunnack

Received: August 10, 2015
At 11:05 AM
Attest: Paul McKeith
Town Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk ASSP
TC