

**Columbia Conservation and Agriculture Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 4, 2016, 7:00 PM**  
**Minutes**

Members Present: Ann Dunnack, Anthony Ortiz, Tom McGrath, Chris McGrath, Paul Ramsey; Mark Walter, Town Administrator.

Call to Order 7:03

Approval of Minutes 6/2/2016 – unanimously approved

Audience of Citizens: Mark Walter Town Administrator – Mark introduced himself to the commission and shared many of the approaches that he has seen successful in his prior position with East Haddam including detailed Trail Maps and other professional quality documents related to the 8 mile river area.

Correspondence – Someone emailed Anthony asking for information on how “roundup” and other chemicals are used in Columbia. Mark Walter will talk with DPW and get back to CCAG as to whether there is a written policy.

Conservation Easement Monitoring – tabled until Fall. Mark Walter to see if there is current complete list of all the Conservation Easements in Columbia.

Trail Maintenance – Ann stated that the trails at Rec Park and Utley Hill are all in good shape. Tom stated that the Mono Pond and Szegda Farm trails are all in good shape and that the red blazed trails at both locations were recently reblazed.

Planning Projects:

Farm Tours – CCAG members took a look at Walt Tabors farm as a possible site. Anthony will work with Walt to try and schedule a 1 day couple hour event there for Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> touring just the areas where live animals would be ( Horses, Cows ).

Ann will put info in The Chronicle, Paul will put sign on the town green, Ann will contact Kim to put on town website, Chris McGrath will work on signage for Walt’s farm

Columbia Market Saturday, August 27, 2016, 9-2 put on by Columbia Rec. – CCAG to table near Joshua’s trust. Paul to bring canopy tent and table

Youth in Conservation - Girl Scouts will put together some sort of orienteering or letter box game this Fall

Mono Pond Invasive Aquatic Plants – Dr Kortman to stay active monitoring. There was a flowering bladderwort bloom this past spring

PZC/IWWCC site walks/reviews – nothing new to review. The squire property does include conservation easement that may allow in the future a trail from Town Green to Rec. Park

Columbia Energy Conservation Committee – has expressed some interest in collaboration on Town-Wide Trail System. CCAG brought to Mark Walter’s attention that the trail system was something outside of the scope of the CECC and that a better organizational structure might be to have the CECC as a subcommittee of CCAG. Mark research and get back to us.

Salmon River Watershed Partnership - nothing new to report

Adjournment 8:20pm

Tom McGrath