

Columbia Conservation and Agriculture Commission

Thursday, March 5, 2020 7:00 PM

Minutes – Submitted by Tom McGrath – Secretary

Present: Tom McGrath, Ann Dunnack, Chris Tolsdorf, Jaon Arico

Minutes 11/07/2019 were approved 3-0, 1 abstention

Audience of Citizens – **none**

Introduce New Member – **Jason Arico**

Old Business

Conservation Easement Monitoring – This will happen this Spring, Tom McGrath wrote an article for Columbia View – it was posted in the Winter issue. It was also included in Mark Walter’s newsletter. Paula Stahl – Town Planner and Constance Kisluk Zoning Enforcement Officer need to move forward with mailing out the notification letters to the individual land owners that have an associated conservation easement attached to it. Once those notifications have been sent the monitoring by CCAG members will begin.

Trail Maintenance – Trails were in good shape. CCAG and SFMC committee members will visit the trails over the next few weeks to do any necessary cleanup

New Business

Columbia Views -We need to publish articles on CCAG subjects for every issue. Ann, Chris and Tom will plan to share the writing of articles.

Update Szegda Farm Management Plan – We will review the Szegda Farm Management Plan at our May 2020 meeting. It was developed in 2009. We need to document goals met and develop new goals and usage plans. e.g. feasibility of installing a farmer’s bridge to connect the plains field to the newly upgraded power company right of way.

Mono Pond Management Plan – We will review the Mono Pond Management Plan at our May 2020 meeting. There appears to be some annual reporting that needs to be filed with the state for Mono Pond based on the 1999 agreement. We will need to find out who needs to see it and in what format they would like.

Mono Pond Expansion Update. Mark Walters and Ann Dunnack met with representatives from the state to start the discussion on the potential uses of the additional property and additional access points and parking.

Open Space Steward Reports for Szegda Farm and Mono Pond – We will start using the Open Space Steward Report forms during our monitoring and trail maintenance visits to the properties. They will be filed along with our minutes when possible.

Subdivision of the Brand Estate. The Brand Estate comprises almost 90 acres of land between Johnson Road, Chowanec Road, and Old Willimantic Road. There is a proposed Re-Subdivision plan being reviewed. CCAG recommends a fee-in-lieu-of-land.

Commissioners Comments None

Adjournment: 8:15pm

Next Meeting: May 7, 2020