

Wethersfield Conservation Commission: Minutes of the Meeting, Wednesday December 11, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 PM by the Chairman, Rick Baldoni. Other members present included Vice Chairman, Bob Pulford, Ralph Moyer, Dave Herold, Linda Nielsen and Rick Doran. Also present representing the town was Kathy Bagley, Director, Parks & Recreation Dept.

Minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2013 were discussed in a motion by Ralph Moyer, seconded by Dave Herold. Minutes were accepted as presented, and the motion passed in a unanimous vote.

Update from Kathy Bagley: the work on the Putnam Bridge continues on the north side, but no construction of the pedestrian and bike path on the south side of the bridge has started. The access point in Wethersfield aligns with the work ramp on Great Meadow Road, but the path and access in Glastonbury is still to be determined.

Update from Donna Hemman: no report, as Donna was attending a Town Council special meeting.

Old Business: it was agreed to table a previous discussion about the Prime Soils Survey, until further information and data could be presented to the Commission.

New Business: it was noted that the Morris Farm was purchased, including 21 acres and the house, at a closing price of \$565,000. It is expected that some farming of Asian vegetables would be the primary crop on the land, plus there may be a need for a Phase One Environmental Survey performed on some part of the land.

-Ralph Moyer pointed out that surrounding towns have successfully completed referenda to set up future bonding for open space purchases, but something similar has not been done in Wethersfield. Members agreed to ask friends and associates in Rocky Hill and Glastonbury about the process, method and procedure exercised in other towns, so it might be employed in Wethersfield. Members would then report back to the Commission, and then offer suggestions to our Town Council and the Town Manager.

-It was agreed the open space inventory, completed in January 2013, would again be reviewed. At the same time, the open space on the Northeast Utilities property would be given additional review, in light of the magnet school which is to be developed on some other portion of the site.

-It was noted that, at the present time, there is still another vacancy on the Commission.

Public: there were no comments, as no members of the public were present.

**Note: It was agreed the Commission would postpone the January 2014 meeting, as time was needed to more fully develop information about outstanding Old Business and New Business items. Therefore, the next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday February 12, 2014.**

Adjournment: motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob Pulford, seconded by Dave Herold. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Rick Doran, Recording Secretary