

Barkhamsted Conservation Commission

Thursday September 3, 2015

Barkhamsted Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Scott Johnstone.

Members present: Deb Simon, Mario Santoro, Ginny Apple, Roger Behrens and Bill Winchester.

Absent: Sue Mckitis-Perillo, Lynn Bartolucci.

Special Guests: Don Stein, First Selectman.

Ginny made a motion to approve the July minutes. Roger seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

- Resource list review: No new information was added to the resource list.
- Shared site: No new info.
- The Greenwoods Bike Trail discussion: Don spoke about progress concerning this still conceptual idea to this point. A select group of individuals will walk path with a GIS device and try to determine the sensitive areas to avoid when mapping out a proposed path. Then the process of working its way thru the regulatory steps would begin. Ultimately it would go to a public hearing. He stressed there is a great deal of work to be completed before then. He also released a statement on the town website reviewing what has transpired to this point. Deb spoke about the flora and fauna that will be affected. She presented a biodiversity map from the DEEP that clearly highlights areas of state listed endangered, threatened or special concern species, within the watershed overlay and how a proposed trail could possibly fall within that area.
- Riverton Fair: Our booth will include Monarch Butterfly board, Bear aware literature and Deb Simon informative display board about turtles, salamanders and other wildlife sensitive to our changing environment.
- Ginny unveiled the Monarch Butterfly flyer for the upcoming poster contest at the Barkhamsted School this fall. It was well received. Ginny made a motion to reduce cash prizes from \$50.00 to \$25.00. Deb seconded.
- Don updated the commission on the new startup group in town with the acronym of FALPS (Friends of American Legion and Peoples Forest). They are having a kickoff meeting Friday September 11<sup>th</sup> at Peoples Forest pavilion at 6:30 p.m. He encouraged everyone to attend to show support. The State DEEP Commissioner and our local state representatives will be in attendance.
- Don and Scott briefed the group on the ongoing situation concerning the proposed tree cutting at Stancliff Cove. Presently things are at a standstill. Scott and others have asked a local arborist about possibly drafting a plan of management. They will meet with the BOS in the future to discuss this potential plan and other options for next year. The MDC has opted out of involvement in tree extraction at the moment.

**Meetings/Seminars:**

- Deb attended P&Z meeting in June and reported that the RRDD is looking into allowing a company to install approximately 200 solar panels on the hill area above upper dumping zone. Application was approved.
- P&Z schedule: September 10<sup>th</sup>- Ginny, September 24<sup>th</sup>- Scott; October 8<sup>th</sup>-Bill, October 23<sup>rd</sup>- Mario.

**New Business:**

- Enders Forest work project will be Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Correspondence:** Farmington River newsletter was received.

Ginny made a motion to adjourn meeting at 9:24 p.m. Roger seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Winchester, Secretary.