

Litchfield Conservation Commission

July 1, 2021

Litchfield Town Hall, 2 Liberty Way

Minutes Approved 8/5/21

In attendance Matt Lepore, Joan McKibben, Kevin Lynch, Harry Menzigian, Dianne Plansky, Jayson Brennen, Marion Godzik, Luanna Vollmer

Absent-Michael Croteau, John Curtin

7.01-Matt calls meeting to order.

7:02-Luanna is appointed voting member

7:03- Public non agenda business-

The board of 5 members headed by chairman Vinnie Ribauda, 24 Old Stage Rd, arrived into meeting room. Letter sent by Matt was discussed as well as letters from Atty General. John Poulas Stage Crossing Rd will stake the trail they would like us to use and the Stage crossing board will reappear to the con com board with an actual plan to move the easement. Matt will send a letter to Vinnie outlining the discussion and we will move on from there.

7.30-appoint secretary-Due to Andrew being unable to continue as secretary Kevin made a motion to appoint Dianne Secretary, Harry 2<sup>nd</sup>, Vote 6-0-1 Dianne Appointed Secretary.

7.32-Public Hearing **Land Acquisition 314 CBH tax map 15-7-1. 2.73 acre buildable lot on Charles Bancroft highway we offered to purchase for 110,000.** No public attendance for the hearing. Hearing closed at 7.34

7.35-Barrons Warehouse special zoning exception to impact wetlands. John Harvey from Fuss O'Neil and Luke Hurley from Gove Environmental Services were present to represent Barron. The building being proposed by Barron Warehouse would sit on 29.340' of wetland. That does not include the required buffer around the wetland. The discussed area of wetland is a low Functional Value wetland as a preliminary investigation done by Luke. Full environmental report will be coming. This was backed up by Kevin Lynch as he had done further research there including another walk. Land was prior farm land that has been unused and most of the water on it is run off vs underground water. Joan made a motion **Send the Zoning Board a**

**letter saying that the Conservation recommends the exception. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harry. Vote 5-1-1.**

Luke Hurley discussed Mitigation options, Restoration, Recreation and Land Preservation. First 2 options are not used very often due to ineffectiveness. Land preservation would need to be timely. Should be land we already are in process of or easily procured. If unable to work with the town the company can write a check to ARM mitigation fund. After discussion the part of Barron land purchase that meets the river meets the criteria of Land Preservation so will proceed with that and if unable to work that out then search out property possible agricultural benefit.

8.20-Curtis Sampson Cubmaster troop 11. Looking to increase participation wants to put QR codes up on Kiosks to send

8. 30 Paul Lemire regarding restarting Fishing derby. The ideal location needs to be dredged. Property owner needs to apply for a wetlands permit to do it. Matt will represent the Conservation Commission and discuss with Steve Gannon to represent the Rec Commission to staff and host the event with Paul Lemire trouble shooting and sponsoring. Harry is for the Derby with a focus that we police the event better with more support. Wants to work with Paul. Motion to proceed Dianne Harry 2<sup>nd</sup> Vote to proceed 7-0-0. Paul will talk to land owner tomorrow regarding dredging permit etc.

8.45 20 Birch street special zoning exception for septic and ADU addition. The septic location gives enough room to have a reasonable buffer. Joan made motion to send letter to ZBA to saying that Concom recommends the exception with the suggestion of no fertilizer. Harry 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Vote 7-0-0**

8.50 Dianne Community Garden update. 40 plus visitors to meetings at garden this month. One meeting included members from selectman, rec, concom and heritage. Not sure if that's happened before. Its been mowed by member and some trees taken down and some pruned. Waiting on approval of farming lots from Steve Normanton. Local Driveway company will be putting in a driveway.

9.00 Jayson Lawnmower purchase options

1 Ask golf course if sell old machines. – **They do not. They reco buy new.**

2 Fix old town mower -**busted drive gear \$3115 to fix**

3 Purchase new **\$7900 to buy same type the town owns**

4 NEW OPTION **it is possible that Rec would be interested in buying a tractor/lawnmower that could be split between concom and rec. \$12500 each**

5 NEW OPTION **hire landscaper estimate 4500 to 6700 a year.**

6 **DO NOTHING AND ALLOW NATURE TO TAKE OVER.**

Jayson said now is the time for the purchase as we have the funds to do it and could lose more land account money before we are able to ask for change at town meeting to raise account balance.

Matt brings up side by side options 2 motions for options fail due to lack of 2<sup>nd</sup> . **Harry made motion for Jay to go to rec to discuss joint purchase. Dianne 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote 7-0-0.**

9.00-Conservation plan authorization last month needs motion for what account money should come from. Joan made motion **pay this expense 4500 for concom plan from Land use fund.**

9.15-Property inspections Muster field. Time set as 9.00 7/3/21 Luanna, Joan, Matt and Dianne will do the inspection.

9.16- Weather station Matt is going to get a price and bring back model price etc the equipment would replace ineffective equipment currently at Fire station

9.17-Bird Watching Field trip. Joan Suggests offering it next spring.

9.18-Duck Box placement. Boxes need work. In progress

9.20-Continue search for Bat box-Kevin thinks he knows where it is. Jay got a person calling about son building bat boxes for Sophomore project. Will be contacting Matt.

9.22-Marion survey on what's up got 39 responses. Joan had sent out the whats up survey done years ago with more responses.

9.23-arcgis mapping and signage reassigned to Jay for now

9.25-Matt welcomed Dianne and Jay as full members and Luanna as an alternate.

Land Preservation plan tabled till next month.

Meeting 2 xs a month tabled again

Approving minutes tabled till next month. Dianne asked all members to read the minutes to allow the approval to be done quickly.

9.40 kevin made motion to adjourn to non public 2<sup>nd</sup> Matt.

Adjourned to non public per rsa 91-a:3(d)

Out of non Public at 9:50

Respectfully submitted by

Dianne Plansky

Secretary

