

Guilford Conservation Commission Meeting July 21, 2016

Attending: Linda Hecker, Linda Lembke, Bevan Quinn, Susan James, Karen Murphy

Not attending: Bill Jewell, Rory Lincoln, David Gessner, Marli Rabinowitz, Gabby Ciuffreda

Public Guest: Tadj Schreck

Meeting called to order at 5:05

On motion the minutes from June 16, 2016 were accepted.

Tadj Schreck from the newly formed Recreation Commission attended the meeting. We discussed updating our 250th Recreation Brochure by adding the Carriage/Weeks Forest Trail and mentioned the legal trails that are now listed on the most recent VTrans map. It was suggested that the trails committee be headed by a member from each commission who would then report back to their respective commissions on ongoing work. The trails committee could meet at separate times from regularly scheduled commission meeting times. Tadj mentioned that the RC is having a Field Day at the GCS on August 20th. We thought it might work to have a table and guided walk at the Carriage Trail before the start of the school activities. She will submit our idea to the RC. If yes, we will finalize plans at the next regular meeting.

Weeks Forest Trail review:

The opening day on July 2nd was a success with about 50 people attending and thoroughly enjoying the trail. Reed and Barbara Anthony's nephew, John, came and spent time talking about the Anthony's history of the Spring Farm and land.

Wendy Levy from the Commons wrote an article and had photos in the latest issue.

Jeff Nugent from WRC added the trail to Trail Finder: www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/weeks-forest-trail.

The trail is well used and contributes to the Guilford Center's Village Center designation.

Follow up includes final a report to AVCC and a submission of a "success story of the week" to AVCC.

A list of folks/organizations/businesses was generated and members volunteered to write them thank you notes.

The trail development was truly a community effort that included the GCC, local businesses, volunteer help, the town road crew, Jen Kramer and her 6th grade class, WRC, and the historical society.

Natural Resources Inventory:

Susan James gave us info about our Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) application from last year. We are planning to resubmit it with modifications and additions so as to bring it in line with the statewide criteria, tighten up the work scope and budget, and explain how we plan to include public participation and outreach. The grant application is due October 31. Susan will appear before the Planning Commission to formally request their support of the MPG application and that the NRI proposal will be on the record.

The land use discussion was tabled until more members can attend.

The next future walk is on the trail from Borkowski's to Sweet Pond Road on September 18 at 9:30 AM.

In other business we created a preliminary agenda for the August meeting. It will include the Recreation Field event, status of the trails committee and its structure, MPG ideas for improving the application, and reviewing the September 18th walk .

Next regular meeting is August 18 at 5 PM at the town office.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Murphy
Clerk Guilford Conservation Commission