

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 8, 2024 – 6:00PM (VIA ZOOM)

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.
2. Roll Call. Present: Lee Potter, Tom Blagden, Zach Sadow and Miles Todaro (Land Use Tech Specialist). Maria Grace and Steve Fitch (Alternate) joined later in the meeting. Absent: Susan Rand and Sarah Webb (Alternate).
3. **Approval of Minutes of July 3, 2024 (Special Meeting) – Tabled**
4. Public Comment – None
5. Wood Turtle Correspondences Discussion
L. Potter talked about a memo from Michael Klemens, which included the protection of Wood Turtle habitats using 3 zones of precautions. M. Todaro explained that the memo was for informational purposes. L. Potter would like to invite Mr. Klemens to the next meeting to discuss the subject further; M. Todaro will contact him to schedule. (At this time, M. Grace joined the meeting.)
6. Centennial Watershed State Forest Letter Discussion
L. Potter noted that Sarah Webb had written the letter and suggested that this Commission would like to be involved with the proposed plan, going forward. (At this time, S. Fitch joined the meeting.) M. Grace commented that the DEEP does regular forest cuts and it is documented with emails to adjacent landowners. L. Potter will email Gerard Milne at the DEEP and copy the Commission members. T. Blagden would like more information about the use of herbicides in the watershed. S. Fitch commented that oversight by this Commission is a good idea and they should have regular communications about specific activities. Z. Sadow agreed with the letter and the plan, going forward.
7. CACIWIC 50th Anniversary Event (Change of order of Agenda)
There was brief discussion of the Annual Meeting & Conference to be held in Bristol, CT this coming November. Members will be reminded and should let M. Todaro or Abby Conroy know if they want to attend.
8. BioBlitz Discussion (Change of order of Agenda)
M. Todaro explained that this information was a suggestion forwarded from John Harney, IWWC Alternate member. The project is to identify all things in a given area in a given time period; it is

an inventory. There are lots of different ways to do the project and organize community members. T. Blagden commented that there would be visual documentation with photos involved. L. Potter suggested continuing the discussion in the future.

9. Draft Article Review – Understory (Change in order of Agenda)

L. Potter reviewed this new article and will incorporate some of T. Blagden's suggestions. More specific numbers are needed for some reference points; L. Potter will contact the Accessor's office. Other member's comments are welcome. There was discussion of a topic for the next article, possibly "Evolution of a Forest." T. Blagden will contact the new director at the Great Mountain Forest, regarding having a site visit there.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:44pm.