

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

October 24, 2016

7:30 PM – Meeting Room D – Madison Town Campus

Members Present: Chair Heather Crawford, Richard Gedney, George McManus, Clyde Burkhardt, Christine Bouchard, Alex Cushing.

Members Absent: Rachel Klein.

1) Meeting called to order: At approximately 7:30 pm, Chairman Crawford called the meeting to order.

2) Call for additional agenda items: H. Crawford added a discussion about an email she received regarding the Rockland bike trails (listed here as item #7).

3) Discussion of upgrade for municipal communications tower ZBA application 8194 and P&Z application 16-21.

H. Crawford stated that the proposed communications tower (intended for Town emergency services) will replace the existing tower and be twice the height (150ft); the existing tower will be removed, and the new tower will be installed on the existing pad, thereby creating minimal disturbance. H. Crawford stated that there should be little to no lighting. The site is out of the flood zone.

Motion: R. Gedney moved to authorize Chair Crawford to write a letter regarding the municipal communications tower, expressing that the Commission finds no real potential for significant environmental impact. G. McManus seconded.

Vote: all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

4) Debrief of Bauer Park Festival experience.

Members agreed that the festival went well. People enjoyed the skulls and bones—no one asked about the pelts. H. Crawford reported that the horseshoe crab molts got a lot of interest, but survived intact. The light pollution display went well—pirate eye patches attracted a good amount of people. G. McManus suggested that next year they should include a poster/write-up about the sycamore tree cookie; they did not have many opportunities to explain the tree, and it would be nice to have a self-guide.

5) Review and approve draft Annual report to Town due October 28th.

C. Bouchard brought in copies of last year's FY14/15 report and her draft of the FY15/16 report. The members reviewed the content and edited a few points.

Motion: G. McManus moved to approve the Annual report as amended. C. Burkhardt seconded.

Vote: all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

6) Project/Issue Updates.

Residential and Street Lighting: Town fixture replacement and presentation update

- The Town survey received 16 responses. H. Crawford will try again to get Woody to come to the next meeting.

Boundary Documentation:

- No update.

Public Education/Outreach for 2016-17:

- R. Gedney suggested that when coastal site plan applications come before the Commission, they should take that opportunity to educate the homeowners about horseshoe crab protection/awareness.
- C. Bouchard stated that she is continuing to develop the Facebook page.
 - G. McManus will send Bouchard pictures from the Festival for her to upload to the page.
 - H. Crawford stated that she will ask R. Klein to write an article/anecdote regarding her experience in trying to eradicate invasive bamboo from her property. This can be posted on the FB page and can also be sent to the newspaper, Patch, etc.
 - H. Crawford stated that she would also like to get an article about light pollution composed.

Invasive Species monitoring:

- No update.

7) Additional agenda item.

H. Crawford reported that she received an email from a resident who expressed concern about the density of trails being created at Rockland. He was also concerned that they were allowing night riding; H. Crawford stated that night riding is not allowed. She also stated that the trail density is high enough—the Committee will not approve the addition of any more trails. H. Crawford added that the

management committee has reported that ATV use at the park is down since the bike trails were created, and there has been less dumping.

8) Review and approve minutes for September 26, 2016 meeting.

- September 26, 2016

The minutes were reviewed and discussed. The Commission stressed that regarding application 8191+CSP, they did not mean to imply that it was their purview to decide whether or not there was a hardship case; they meant to say that they could not identify what the hardship was.

Motion: H. Crawford moved to approve the minutes of September 26, 2016 as submitted. G. McManus seconded.

Vote: all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

9) Adjournment: At 8:25 pm, R. Gedney moved for adjournment; C. Burkhardt seconded.

Vote: all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Shauna Dowd

*amendments to these minutes will be noted in future minutes.