

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
DECEMBER 12, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING at 7:30 P.M.

**MUNICIPAL CENTER
ROOM 302**

I. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: M. Burris, L. Nobel, L. Lozier, D. Tyrrell, R. Paz, J. Sepko

STAFF/LIASON: A. Marino - Liaison to Tomasso Nature Park, M. DeVoe – Town Planner,

ABSENT: None

II. GUEST PRESENTATIONS

None

III. MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS/ CHAIR REPORT

The Chairman's report was read and noted.

IV. MINUTES

A motion was made by: L. Lozier to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2023 as amended: correction – L. Nobel was indeed present at the meeting of 11/8/23.

Seconded by: R. Paz **All in Favor 6 to 0 Motion Passes**

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Tomasso Nature Park

M. DeVoe gave a recap on Canal Trail Progress. Nothing from the High School students who were to be working on design parameters for the signs in connection with the Trail, as well as ID signs in other parts of the Park. J. Sepko asked if signs for the turtle beds were completed. M. DeVoe stated he is being stalled by the design but will put together a basic warning sign to be constructed and installed at both new turtle bed locations. A. Marino asked about the bat box project, at least one of which is to be installed at TNP. M. DeVoe's last email to the aspiring Eagle Scout was unanswered. M. DeVoe provided an update on the anticipated start of work in the park. While some peripheral work may begin as early as 2025, actual bridge work and trail construction will likely not start until 2026.

b. Paderewski Park Pond

M. DeVoe went through the proposed recommendations line by line, including the requests that will be considered by the Town Council, and those that will not. Clarification was offered on the following items: the remaining items having already been agreed upon.

- 1. Social Media was discussed and advice was given – the Town now has its own Facebook page and will be adding more robust elements to our social media platform. The Commission will be advised once new media is added and who to contact to ensure posts are being made.*
- 2. Completing the trail around Paderewski Park Pond was seen as an important step and M. DeVoe will check to see if the capital improvement budget process has been closed out.*

A motion was made by: *L. Lozier to request funds and/or that bid plans be developed by the Town or a consultant for completion of the loop trail with a new boardwalk.*

Seconded by: *D. Tyrrell* **All in Favor 6 to 0** **Motion Passes**

- 3. The concept of a conservation or wildlife management area easement was strongly supported. It was made clear by M. DeVoe that the act, if approved by the Town Council, would not in and of itself create a better enforcement environments, but would prove to send a much stronger message to the public. Signs to accompany the designation could be erected in 4 to 5 locations and contain park and pond rules. The Commission asked M. DeVoe to elevate this request with a draft easement and declaration.*
- 4. The remaining council supported initiatives will be addressed piecemeal as time and resources permit.*

VI. NEW BUSINESS

None

VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was made by: *L. Lozier to approve the report as presented.*

Seconded by: *R. Paz* **All in Favor 6 to 0** **Motion Passes**

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

L. Losier asked M. DeVoe to mention that leaves should not be blown into pad park pond. R. Paz discussed the Sustainable CT movement and wondered if the Commission would like to seek designation. M. DeVoe stated the Town has already considered this and found that staff to support the effort was lacking. There are conservation related initiatives that the Commission can address. M. DeVoe stated he would email the link to the website to all commission members.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by: *L. Lozier to adjourn meeting at 8:50 p.m.*

Seconded by: *R. Paz* ***All in Favor 6 to 0*** ***Motion Passes***

Respectfully submitted,

Mark DeVoe

Town Planner