

Parks and Natural Resources Committee

Tuesday July 16, 2019 7:00 PM  
Mansfield Town Hall Conference Room B

**Minutes -- FINAL**

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM

**2. Roll Call**

Attending: Jim Morrow (Chair), Ken Feathers (secretary), Quentin Kessel (Cons. Com. Rep.), Tom Harrington, Sue Harrington, Vicky Wetherell (by phone)

Not present but on committee roster: Michael Soares, Julianna Barrett (alt.)

Town Staff Present: Jennifer Kaufman

**3. Review of Minutes**

The Minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting were approved (moved S. Harrington, second T. Harrington)

The Notes from the June 24, 2019 Field Trip were reviewed and corrections were made.

**4. Opportunity for Public comment**

No members of the public were present.

**5. New Business**

• *Membership*

The committee was informed that member Heidi Groeger has resigned. Members were asked to inform any potential members of the vacancy and encourage their on-line application.

• *Management Plans*

Town staff informed the committee that Weston Henry (intern) has completed 5 draft management plans that need to be reviewed. The plans are for the Simpson Property, Commonfields, River Park, Dorwart Preserve, and Moss Sanctuary. The approach to do this and ensure that each plan's goals are appropriate and in sync with overall goals in the POCD was discussed. Town staff's recommendation to establish a working group to complete this review before submittal to Town Council for final review and approval was accepted. Tom Harrington agreed to proofread the plans, and Ken Feathers and Tom Harrington will go over the goals, and Vicky Wetherell will also provide input. The committee was reminded that if two members worked together it would need to be in the framework of a meeting subjected to public notice, which town staff can arrange.

**6. Continuing business**

• *Connecticut Bird Atlas*

Sue Harrington reported that work on year 2 is winding down as nesting season ends. She reports no earthshattering findings but some new species were noted at some properties and there seem to be significant changes in the counts for some species.

• *Outreach and Education*

Three Walktober events have been submitted:

- "the Unnatural History of Merrow Meadow"
- An exploration of the Fifty-foot Cliff Preserve
- A walk at Wolf Rock and Sawmill Brook

Sue Harrington raised the question of availability of transport vans to allow a one-way hike for the Wolf Rock walk, rather than a return to start, to allow exploring the southern part of the trail nearer to Pudding Lane. The logistics and practicality of this was discussed.

A question was raised as to whether anything was scheduled for Celebrate Mansfield and the answer was “no”. As a result of this question the status of the trails and the forestry project was discussed.

## **7. Communications**

- *Simpson Property Trail/Eagle Scout Bridge*

The committee was informed that the bridge is mostly complete.

Discussion ensued about the status of trail marking and other wetland crossings needed to complete the basic trail network.

Discussion went on a tangent to ask about the status of Southworth Preserve trail construction.

Town staff report they need to coordinate with the state, since some of the trail is on state-managed COE land, and that signage is waiting on town signage guidelines incorporating the new branding.

- *August Meeting*

The committee was reminded of the August 20 meeting date, and most members indicated they would probably be able to attend.

- *Mansfield Draft Zoning Regulations Status*

Town staff reported that a RFQ has been posted to solicit a specialty consultant to complete the drafting given the specific legalistic nature of the writing to ensure concepts are properly captured. An addendum to the RFQ will be issued to address issues raised in a bidders conference.

- *Minutes*

Minutes as noted in the agenda were included in the meeting packet.

## **8. Executive session in accordance with CGS section 1200(6)(D)**

Entered executive session 7:46 PM moved T. Harrington seconded S. Harrington

Exited executive session at 8:19

The Committee adopted a motion (moved Feathers seconded S. Harrington) for town staff to forward recommendations to the Town Manager

## **9. Future Agendas**

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM by consensus

Respectively Submitted  
Ken Feathers, Secretary