

**TOWN OF GRANBY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
VIA ZOOM
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 2023**

PRESENT: David Roberts, Chairman; David Desiderato, Mindy Gould, Kara Marshall, Zachary Donais

GUESTS: Jennica Allen, UMass Amherst; Laura Perednia

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David Roberts confirmed a quorum and called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Laura Perednia stated she lives in North Granby and is interested in things the commission is doing.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 20, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Under #8 Drummer Articles, it should state David Roberts was contacted by The Drummer, not David Desiderato.

ON A MOTION By D. Desiderato, seconded by M. Gould, the commission voted unanimously (4-0-0) to approve the minutes of March 20, 2023 as corrected. It should be noted Kara Marshall arrived after approval of the minutes.

4. FORMATION OF INVASIVE SPECIES ORDINANCE

Z. Donais explained the consideration of an invasive species ordinance came about because of the sub-division project at Cider Mill Heights. The developers needed to show their plan as the lot sizes are smaller than two acres. Z Donais and D. Desiderato noticed the developers were using invasive species. Z. Donais invited Jennica Alen from UMass Amherst to the meeting to explain why the prevention of invasive species is important.

J. Allen noted it is important for individuals to know that invasives are species that are introduced from elsewhere in the world and have negative implications. They can push ecosystems past their level of resiliency. It is important to look at how invasives get here and because it can be accidental, we have some control over what gets into our landscape. Each state has a list of the invasives in their own state and is responsible for regulating them.

A discussion on an ordinance banning invasives ensued. It was suggested an ordinance include a list of invasives. Possible goals of an ordinance include reducing/eliminating invasive species being planted in Granby, encouraging the use of native plants and removing invasives.

On a motion by Z. Donais, seconded by D. Desiderato, the Conservation Commission voted unanimously (5-0-0) to move forward in exploring the creation of an ordinance to prohibit the planting of invasives and using native plants. If a landscaping plan is required, the plan would only include an approved native list.

5. LIBRARY PROGRAM

- At the last library program, Aubrey Schulz from the Wildflower Meadow group provided an educational presentation on pollinators. There were 29 individuals in attendance.
- There will be a presentation regarding Dark Skies on May 8th.

There is nothing scheduled beyond May. M. Gould noted she is considering a presentation regarding mosquitoes and will follow up with Holly Johnson.

6. DRUMMER ARTICLES

- M. Gould wrote an article on pollinators last month.
- Melissa O'Brian will submit an article on Dark Skies for May.

7. SUSTAINABLE CT

D. Roberts noted the document was submitted to Sustainable CT and there has been no word as of this time.

8. STATUS OF YARD SIGN INITIATIVE

There are less than 100 signs left. A suggestion was made to sell them at the Juneteenth celebration.

9. MEETING TOPICS FOR MAY 9, 2023

- Minutes
- Update on Formation of Invasive Species Ordinance
- Juneteenth
- Sustainable CT – Next Steps
- Library Program
- Drummer Articles
- Composting

10. FINAL COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

M. Gould would like to move forward regarding an initiative with Blue Earth.

11. ADJOURN

ON A MOTION BY M. Gould, seconded by D. Desiderato, the commission voted to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kane
Recording Secretary