

HARWINTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting May 18, 2015
Minutes

- Meeting 7:10pm

Present: C. Butcher, Herb Etter, J Goodno, J Kirchner
Guests: Danielle Smith, Jason Fratta

Conservation area:

Conservation area Sign: J Goodno – the sign is up and it looks great. \$50 remaining from approval for plants will be spent to plant under the sign. Trimming needs to be done in the area as well.

Bench: We still have \$250 remaining in our budget plus the additional donations- J. Goodno to pursue the cost of a bench near the pond with these monies.

Mountain Biking on the Conservation/Recreation Property:

1.Recreation had organized an event to teach middle school age children mountain biking skills with the thought to use the grassy area and some trails. The event did not materialize due to lack of sign up.

2.NEMBA: NW CT chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association approached the town with the desire to explore town owned properties for potential mountain bike trails. Conservation/Recreation area (both east of Lead Mine and West of Lead Mine) and the Wilcox property. Their initial thought was to develop biking trails in the double red area of the trail system.

Discussion: Members discussed the pros and cons of developing trails and/or encouraging the use of Mountain bikes on the trail system of the Conservation area. It is an area that is not large enough to keep the two separated and there is a large safety concern. The trails are well used by hikers/walkers. Even bringing in training classes in the grassy area would encourage future use of the trail system by those children.

The area to the East side is currently used on the end near Route 4, by the boy scouts for camping and also connects to Roraback state property. This might be an area that could be developed as a mountain biking area and connect up to Roraback. This would keep the walkers and mountain bikers separated and would be safer for both activities.

Tennis courts: Town proposes to move/build new courts at the Town Complex. The remaining courts at the Rec area could then be used for a different purpose. A couple of thoughts came up from our guests. A small dog park (no large dogs) - or a skate park.

Town Green;

\$250 for plants- \$149 was spent. C. Butcher requested the town to mulch. Water is turned on at the community hall. Some of the remainder of the money to be spent on plants for under the Conservation area sign. Bulbs will need to be planted in the fall.

Naugatuck Greenway-

Wheels and Heels 5K Road race planned for June 6.

J. Kirchner meeting with officials to work on a grant where 20% from the town and 80% DEP grant to provide access to the Naugatuck River.

J. Kirchner continues to attend meetings concerning the greenway. There will be meetings involving the bringing together of Thomaston, Harwinton and Torrington on how to connect the greenway and to work together.

Membership- Need new members.

Meeting adjourned 07:45

Submitted:

Colleen Butcher

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT
ON 05/26/2015 AT 1:00 PM
ATTEST NANCY E. ELDRIDGE TOWN CLERK