

Parks and Natural Resources Committee
Tuesday January 15, 2019 7:00 PM
Mansfield Town Hall Conference Room B

Minutes – FINAL

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01

2. Roll Call

Attending: Jim Morrow (Chair), Ken Feathers (secretary), Quentin Kessel (Cons. Com. Rep.), Tom Harrington, Sue Harrington, Michael Soares

Not present but on committee roster: Vicky Wetherell, Julianna Barrett (alt.), Heidi Groeger (alt.)

Town Staff Present: Jennifer Kaufman

3. Review of Minutes

The Minutes of the December 18, 2018 regular meeting were approved (moved S. Harrington, second Morrow)

4. Opportunity for Public comment

No members of the public were present for comment.

5. New Business

- *Model Sign*

Town Staff presented illustrations of the new graphic design for signs to incorporate the new logo and branding. These will be first placed on new property locations that have not yet had signage installed, including Hanks Hill, Southworth, Simpson, and Whetten Woods

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

This agenda item was deferred until after continuing business

7. Continuing business

- *Simpson Family Property*

Jim Morrow reported that he has not been able to get out to finalize last few parts of the proposed trail route.

- *Connecticut Bird Atlas*

Sue Harrington reported that work on the winter phase of the project is continuing. It is more work due to low activity levels for birds; in a one hour count only three birds may be observed.

- *Outreach and Education*

A draft of the spring brochure course offerings was presented for review.

Town staff reported that John Hankins has indicated he would not be interested in serving on any committees but is willing to volunteer time for property work.

Town staff report that they are working with interns to standardize the GIS attributes for trails, and for property ownership and conservation status, across all property types to allow consistent data access by the public.

- *Hanks Hill Preserve update*

Town staff report the property transfer has closed, and the proposed bench and sign-holding rock have been installed. A sign using the new design is pending, which will likely be separate from the rock, with the signage rock expected to hold a specific credit crediting the property donor. A spring ribbon cutting and formal dedication will be planned.

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

The committee entered executive session at 7:22 (moved Soares, seconded S. Harrington)

The committee exited executive session at 8:22

Recommendations will be prepared and forwarded to the Town Manager.

9. Communications

Communications were noted as listed on the agenda.

10. Other

Town Staff reported that NRCS has approved funding of the Forest Management Plan for the Greater Whetten Woods area; the forester (Jackie Kulig) will prepare the plan.

It was noted that a complaint was received about an infestation of bamboo at two locations on Route 195, and verified by Charlotte Pyle as the species regulated by statute. Enforcement will ensure.

The next free community dinner was announced as happening Wednesday January 23rd, RSVPs needed: see TasteOfMansfield.org.

11. Future Agendas: no discussion

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM (move Kessel; second T. Harrington)

Respectively Submitted
Ken Feathers, Secretary