

# Redding Conservation Commission

P.O. Box 1028

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*Kimberly Keil, Assistant Redding Town Clerk*

*2 Pages*

## Minutes

September 19, 2023

7:30 p.m. – The Old Town House – 23 Cross Highway

Present: David Pattee (chair), Stuart Green, William Hill, Clairann Matzke, Tina Miller, Susan Robinson,

Absent: Wallace Perlman

(Meetings of August 4, 2023, August 15, 2023 and September 5, 2023 were canceled)

David Pattee called the meeting to order at 7:33p.m.

### I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Stuart Green, seconded by Clairann Matzke, the minutes of the meeting of July 18, 2023 were unanimously approved.

### II. ADMINISTRATIVE

**Request from Robert Turnbull for Aquarion Water managing the Centennial Watershed State Forest land in Redding.** Robert Turnbull (Aquarion Water), and Jerry Milne and Joe Walsh (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment Protection (DEEP), three of the five members of the Centennial Forest Commission were present to discuss the previously submitted (by email) draft proposal for the 20-year management plan of Centennial Watershed State Forest – Aspetuck – Hemlock Reservoir Block Forest Management Plan. Robert Turnbull made the presentation noting the importance of a logical and comprehensive forest management plan to keep and an enhance a functioning forest ecosystem by means of careful harvesting and planting of trees and grasses to encourage a biodiversity that would ultimately protect the watershed of the Aspetuck and Saugatuck Rivers from pollution. The plan would also address the concerns that invasive species of trees and other flora are harmful to this biodiversity. The commission was asked for comments and these comments and concerns would be addressed by the Centennial Forest Commission and possibly included in the final report. It was noted that the First Selectman of Redding was included in this discussion as she has a copy of the draft proposal. Redding is one of three communities impacted by this proposal, the other two being Newtown and Easton.

### **III. REGULATORY**

**Application #23-10, (Notice of Violation), Freddy Enriques, 17 Old Stagecoach Road.** To receive and discuss an application re Drainage System within Regulated area. Application received June 6, 2023. Site walk on June 15, 2023. Discussion continued from July 18, 2023. Received a 65-day extension. As Mr. Enriques was granted an extension to October 28, 2023, any discussion was tabled.

### **IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- Notice of a Zoom meeting on November 22, 2023 concerning the proposed cell tower on the Boy Scout Camp.

### **V. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Clairann Matzke noted she had received an email from Aimee Pardee asking for information on meadows maintenance.
- Stuart Green reported on the ongoing Knapp Way bridge repair.
- David Pattee reported on the Couch Hill meadow mowing. Fertilizing the meadow will be about \$10,000.
- David Pattee noted that the fire department does not need a permit to install a dry hydrant at the Lonetown Marsh
- Susan Robinson reported on the ongoing issues with the Gilbert Bennett Park in Georgetown noting that as the earlier survey had not been filed with the town it will have to be resurveyed. She thought Christopherson might have a copy in his files.
- Trail's Report by Stuart Green:
  - He submitted a 2022/23 fiscal report to the town noting 281 reports with a total of over 600 hours of volunteer work maintaining the trails.
  - Noted that a lot of time was spent maintaining some of the least used trails and it was thought by the him and others that underused trails be abandoned.
  - Noted that 38% of the town of Redding is Open Space (town, state, land trust, easements).
  - Need to upgrade the signage, and he is looking for a sign maker who can do that.
- David Patee noted that he has the signs for the TOR/Nature Conservancy joint properties ready to install.

There being no further discussion, David Pattee adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Alexander P Scott