

Town of Monroe Conservation Commission

Monroe, New York
December 16, 2020

The Town of Monroe Conservation Commission met for a scheduled "Zoom" meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 8:00pm.

ZOOM MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 8:15P.M.

Attendance: Ward Brower III, Joe Corona, Charles Pakula, Sandra Dunlap (not in attendance) and Nina Petito/ Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- * We have a quorum and Charles Pakula motioned to convene the meeting. Ward Brower III seconded the motion at 8:30pm. All voted in favor.
- * The Town of Monroe Conservation Commission has two vacancies.
- * Nina Petito to get 2 keys for the Conservation Commission file cabinet. One key is for the acting President - Joe Corona and one key for Nina Petito - Secretary. The keys should be with Mary Ellen Beams.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1.1 Meadow Hill Project - wetlands specialist Dave Tompkins walked the site.
- 1.2 The Monroe Commons site walk with Joseph Mann was scheduled for December 16, 2020, which has been canceled and will be rescheduled.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2.1 Jay Beaumont was contacted by Joe Corona about the installation of 1 or 2 kiosks on the in the Town of Monroe at the following locations:
 - A) Walton Lake
 - B) O & R Lake
 - C) Heritage Trail
- 2.2 Jay Beaumont will team up with scout leaders, eagle scouts candidates and Charles Pakula. The scout would raise the money for materials and build the kiosk to the specs of Moodna Creek Watershed Inter-Municipal Council.
- 2.3 The Council develops and pays for the educational panels that are placed on the kiosk.

- 2.4 The kiosks are permanent. Mat Brady the Forest Manager at Black Forest is on the Council and he is helping to provide wood for the kiosk and with help with the construction of the frames for the panels.
- 2.5 The kiosk will be three-sided and each educational panel is 4 feet wide and 3 feet high. There will also be an acknowledgement panels that are 4 feet wide and 1 foot high.
- 2.6 Each panel costs \$150.00. If a panel is vandalized, it is a relatively straight forward process to print a new panel and replace the damaged panel of the kiosk.
- 2.7 After the holidays the Commission will set up a meeting to discuss the kiosk project.

CONSERVATION BUSINESS

- * The amended minutes of November were approved. Charles Pakula motioned to approve the minutes and Ward Brower III seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Monroe Conservation Commission on December 30, 2020 conducted a site walk of the Harriman Business Park and Meadow Hill Cluster Projects. The Monroe Conservation Commission is providing the following response to two active projects that are currently before the Monroe Planning Board.

OBSERVATIONS ON HARRIMAN BUSINESS PARK PROJECT

- 3.1 The Monroe Commission is supportive of the tree planting decision in the updated Harriman Business Park Relocation Plan dated 12/14/2020.

OBSERVATIONS ON MEADOW HILL CLUSTER PROJECT

- 4.1 A site visit to review the wetland boundaries on the Meadow Hill Cluster was conducted with the developer's and the Monroe consultants on December 30, 2020.
- 4.2 Two streams that were not previously documented on the MHC site plan were identified during this site visit. Stephen George of North Country Ecological Services, Inc. will update the site plan to reflect the two newly identified streams. After which he will review the updated site plan with Dave Tompkins. The updated plan will then be forwarded to the Monroe Planning Board.
- 4.3 The boundaries of the various segments of wetlands were examined during the site walk, however the Monroe Conservation Commission raised the question that this area is relatively level which should make the wetlands larger than what was delineated. The wetlands specialists indicated that there is a "rock ledge" below the surface restricting the size of the wetlands. This may be true, however the Monroe Conservation Commission members were not shown any evidence to back this claim. It is our

findings that without the evidence the Monroe Conservation Commission can not agree with the presented description

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 5.1 Clean Sweep will be held on April 24, 2021. Charles Pakula has met with the Mayor of Monroe, the Mayor of Harriman and the Monroe Town Supervisor to discuss the way this project will go forward. There will be Village Police escorts to protect all the volunteers along Route 17M.
- A) The route to be cleaned is from one end of the Town (car wash) to other end of town (3 Bears).
 - B) St Anastasia Church Parking Lot will have shredding capabilities for all types of paper.
 - C) Only water bottles will be handed out to the volunteers due to the corona virus.
- 5.2 On January 26, 2021 at 1pm a Natural Resource Inventories Webinar will be provided by Nate Nardi-Cyrus. E-Mail <Nate.Nardi-Cyrus@dec.ny.gov>
- A) “The Hudson River Estuary Conservation and Land Use Team created this webinar training series to provide a foundation in conservation and land use planning for members of the Hudson River estuary watershed conservation advisory councils/boards and environmental commissions, as well as members of planning and zoning boards, elected officials and interested citizens. Participants will learn about biodiversity, conservation principles, best practices, and tools to identify and conserve important habitat and water resources within New York’s home rule system.”
 - B) “Natural areas including forests, wetlands, fields and stream corridors provide numerous benefits to communities, from clean air and water and flood control to scenic beauty and opportunities for recreation. By mapping and describing a community’s natural assets, a natural resources inventory (NRI) provides a foundation for local planning and decision-making that proactively considers habitat and water resources. NRIs also provide a starting point for identifying conservation priorities and developing community plans, zoning updates, and nature-based climate adaptation strategies. Since 2015, the Hudson River Estuary Program has been providing training, technical assistance, and grants to support the development and applications of NRIs in the estuary watershed. This webinar will provide an overview of approaches to creating an NRI and feature case studies from two recently completed projects in Columbia County and the City of Poughkeepsie.”

Charles Pakula motioned to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ward Brower III and all voted in favor. There upon, Joe Corona adjourned the meeting at 9:11pm.

Nina Petito, Secretary

Next zoom meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2021