

**Town Of Thompson**  
**Conservation Commission**  
815 Riverside Drive, PO Box 899  
North Grosvenordale, Connecticut 06255

MINUTES: AUGUST 18, 2014  
TOWN HALL 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

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Chairman Phil Thomas called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Members present: Phil Thomas, Norma O'Leary, Bernie Davis, Kathy Mitchell, Carol Smith and Ron Tillen.

Guests present: Hap Coman, Gail Livingstone and Jayson Livingstone.

Staff present: Audrey Witkowski and Carolyn Werge.

*Approval of Minutes*

1. **Bernie Davis moved and Ron Tillen seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the July 21, 2014 meeting as presented; the motion carried.**

*Financial Matters:* None

*Correspondence*

1. Members received via email:
  - a. Minutes: Conservation Commission, June 16, 2014.
2. Outgoing Mail: None
3. Incoming Mail: The correspondence between Carolyn Werge and Gail Livingstone of 55 Starr Road concerning the Selectmen's meeting and the Rawson land donation dated July 21, 2014.

*Officer and Committee Reports*

1. Conservation Officer Report
  - a. New Requests: None
  - b. Old Requests: None
  - c. Carolyn Werge has an appointment with the Town Counsel to discuss the liability for volunteers helping with maintenance work in cemeteries.
  - d. Carolyn Werge will also discuss with Town Counsel the Open Space parcels acquired in recent years. There are currently 5 parcels that were acquired for open space purposes do not state the purpose in the deed. Town Counsel will advise how to correct the issue.
  - e. There is no update on the Conservation Commission ordinance.
  - f. The town will be moving forward with the acceptance of the three open space parcels donation in East Thompson. The vote was postponed at the last Board of Selectmen meeting due to an absent member of the board. Carolyn Werge sent Mr. Messier a copy of the Conservation Easement template and a copy of the Rocky Brook Conservation Easement as an example of how the language should read in the proposed Conservation Easements.
  - g. Cemeteries Project
    - i. Poor Farm Cemetery: Carolyn Werge has taken a new photograph of the gravestones and will add it to the website.
    - ii. Whittemore Cemetery: Carolyn Werge has taken new photographs of the cemetery. The brush has been cleared and the stone walls repaired. Carolyn Werge is preparing a before and after page for the website with credit to the volunteers who assisted with the clean up.
  - h. Carolyn Werge was asked by the Town Planner to create a Census Map showing the census block groups that are possibly eligible for Small Cities funding. Carolyn Werge acquired the relevant census information for the state, extracted the Thompson data, generated the map and delivered it in both hard copy and digital copy.
  - i. The proposed Conservation Easement land on the westerly side of New Road will need to be marked with the town's Conservation markers. Carolyn Werge spoke with Mr. Messier about the iron pipes which the surveyor has yet to install at the angle points along the boundary. She asked if he would install the markers at each point while he is out in the field. He said he would take care of it if the

Conservation Commission provides the markers on posts. The Commission has the markers but needs to purchase the posts.

- i. **Bernie Davis moved and Ron Tillen seconded the request to allocate funds to purchase the posts. The motion carried.**
- j. The Trails Committee is planning to do a “bench cut” along a portion of the northerly section of the French River Trail Conservation Easement. They would like to make the steep slope safer and easier to walk for hikers and fishermen. Carolyn Werge contacted Karen Durlach to inform her of the permissions required before doing the work. They will need Board of Selectmen and landowner approvals. They have accepted Carolyn Werge’s assistance on drafting a written request to present to the Board of Selectmen and landowners.

## 2. Other

### *Old Business*

1. Update on previous Conservation reviews: None
2. Blue Bird houses: Bernie Davis plans to acquire the lumber and begin building the Blue Bird houses.
3. Fabyan Property “Honor Roll Memorial”: None

*New Business:* None

### *Citizens’ Comments*

1. Hap Coman asked if the Conservation Commission had received any feedback from the bird house owners sold last year. The owners were asked to send the Commission pictures of their bird houses installed but the Commission only received one photograph.
2. Gail Livingstone of 55 Starr Road suggested a follow up email be sent to the owners of the bird houses. Mrs. Livingstone also had some additional questions regarding the land donation on Starr Road and the possibility of a parking lot being constructed. Carolyn Werge explained the process of accepting an open space donation and the purpose of the Conservation Commission. The Commission is an advisory board providing comments and recommendations when asked to do so. As of now, the Conservation Commission has not been asked to comment on the addition of a parking lot. The deed for the land donation will state that it is an Open Space parcel.
3. Jayson Livingstone of 55 Starr Road stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission was vague on regulations pertaining to reclaimed properties. The Planning and Zoning Commission is currently working on the language of their regulations and they are working on the gravel mining section.

### *Members’ Forum*

1. Norma O’Leary reported on the progress of the “Tot Lot” in River Mill Village. The landscaping is complete and the fence and equipment has been installed. A swingset has been ordered and should arrive in late September. A larger playscape for older children is being discussed. Another yard sale for additional funds is planned.
2. Ron Tillen says the Inland Wetlands Commission is interested in working with the Conservation Commission on a booth for Community Day.
3. With the Cemeteries Project almost complete, Bernie Davis proposed the idea of starting a new project. He suggested the monuments and historic markers of Thompson and asks for pictures to be submitted. The schoolhouses of Thompson were also proposed.

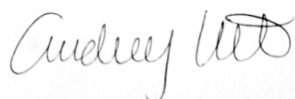
*Announcements:* None

### *Future Meeting*

1. The next meeting will be held Monday, September 15, 2014 at 7 PM in the Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room.

### *Adjournment*

1. Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.



Audrey Witkowski  
Recording Secretary