

Conservation Commission
Sherman, Connecticut



July 13, 2011

The **Conservation Commission Meeting** was called to order at 7:37 PM on July 13, 2011.

Present: Joe Keneally, Chairman, Pat Bailey, Helen Bray, Clerk

Guest: Joanna Wolniak

Prior to the recorded meeting Joe spoke t Joanna Wolniak and filled her in on the Conservation Commission activities and she gave Joe information about herself since she is interested in joining the commission.

The meeting was then opened at 7:37 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Since the meeting did not have a quorum the approval of minutes was put off until next month.

TIMBER HARVESTING

Joe wanted to fill in Joanna about the timber harvesting that Jim Munch did at the Town Meadows. It was selective harvesting done on 80 acres of forest within 110 acres at the Town Meadows. It is called Volunteer Park since the baseball and soccer fields were built by volunteers. It was a former farm purchased by the town about 30 years ago to have in reserve should a high school need to be built.

The forest is all second growth since a farm was previously on the property and the land had to be cleared for grazing. The forest was left to grow wild and Jim Munch suggested to the town a selected harvesting of timber logs. He took out white birch, black birch, butternut, oak, ash, maple, cherry, and poplar. It took about two years to complete. Opening up a canopy allowed the healthy trees more room to grow.

Pat and Joe were the only ones that showed up for the commission site walk because of threatening weather. Joe would like to schedule another site walk possibly in September and invite the public.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from a company in New York City called Ecological and it is a regenerative land development firm that specializes in creating eco-agro communities that go beyond the standard of "green". Joe thought he would pass this off to the Planning & Zoning Commission since they are working on the Plan of Conservation & Development. The company offered to come and speak with any interested parties.

Letter from Connecticut Farmland Trust enclosing a guide called *Conservation Options for Connecticut Farmland*.


OTHER BUSINESS

Joe talked about the farm tour the CC has had in the past for Joanna's benefit pointing out the various farms in Sherman. Joe also gave Joanna a copy of CACIWC and advised her to go on line to order the *Handbook for Conservation Commissions*. Since Joanna works for a firm that deals with geothermal he explained the attempt to install geothermal in the firehouse. Joe also explained the energy products in the town buildings and how he would like to see solar on the flat roof of the school.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING IS ON AUGUST 10, 2011

Respectfully submitted,


Helen Bray, Clerk
Conservation Commission