

**Conservation Commission
Non-quorum Meeting Notes
Monday, November 4, 2019
7:30pm Clifford B. Green Building**

Present: Jeannine Noel, Dana Heilemann, Carolyn Teed-Ives, and April Lamothe; Recording Secretary

Absent with notice: Diane Wimmer

- 1) **Call to Order:** Jeannine Noel called the meeting to order at 7:37pm.
- 2) **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Tabled until next meeting due to lack of quorum.
- 3) **Budget 2019-20:** Jeannine Noel had nothing to report on the budget.
- 4) **New Business:**
 - a) **Review of Gravel Pit Permit requested by Margaret Washburn ZEO/WEO Enforcement Officer:** The agenda item was moved to the end of the meeting.
 - b) **Schedule for Next Year:** Tabled until next meeting due to lack of quorum.
- 5) **Old Business:**
 - a) **Walktober Event:** Dana Heilemann and Diane Wimmer attended the Walktober event on Saturday. Dana Heilemann said that the event went very well with a large attendance.
 - b) **Sustainability:** Jeannine Noel reported that thirty-two cities and towns were certified in 2019. Dana Heilemann suggested using the Walktober Event for Sustainable CT. She also mentioned that during the event, Diane Wimmer spoke with people that are involved with Dark Skies; more information to come.
- 4) a) **Review of Gravel Pit Permit requested by Margaret Washburn ZEO/WEO Enforcement Officer:** Margaret Washburn asked the Commission to review two applications for gravel pits that were submitted to IWWC for two pits off Rukstela Road and one pit off Maynard Road (Potvin Pit). Margaret Washburn wrote: "On the 2 Rukstela Road pits, ponds will be created, where they propose to excavate as deep as 30 feet into groundwater. Then, one of the ponds (the west pit) would be filled with hundreds of thousands of yards of silt from the La Framboise wash ponds. The western pond may ultimately be part of a 200-acres solar farm. We are concerned about potential impacts to the aquifer. The silt comes from numerous sites of unknown origin. There is also the potential for groundwater contamination associated with operating hydraulic equipment in the ponds, and unknown future uses of the property." Discussion ensued while viewing the different map overlays.

The main concerns of the Commission were: drainage, only replacing four inches of the five to eight inches of topsoil, the fill that will be used, ground water, and that the last Environmental Review Team (ERT) review was done in 2006 for the Rukstela pits.

The Commission agrees with the IWWC that their concerns regarding areas being within the groundwater protection zone, the hydrology, concerns with contamination to the drinking water, and the locale near water/streams/wetlands. The Commission feels that more information is needed, such as current ERTs for both properties and the results from the National Diverse Database that has been filed. Also that Planning & Zoning and the Aquifer Protection Agency should look further into this matter.

Jeannine Noel mentioned that she is glad that the Commission was included in this discussion.

- 6) **Public Comment:** None
- 7) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

Sincerely Submitted,
April Lamothe
Recording Secretary