

**Preston Conservation and Agricultural Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 17, 2021
Teleconference
7:30 pm.**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Piszczek called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

2. Roll Call

Regular Members

Gary Piszczek, Chairman
Matthew Snurkowski, Vice Chairman
Lynwood Crary
Margaret Gibson - absent
Sandy Pimentel
Ted Zajac

Alternates

Roberta Charpentier - seated

Chairman Piszczek seated R. Charpentier

3. Approval of the April 26, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes.

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Snurkowski to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2021 as presented.

All in favor. Motion carries.

4. Comments from the Public

None

5. Communications

- a) Connecticut Wildlife Magazine, March/April 2021
- b) ECCD Outlook

6. Public Hearings

None

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by M. Snurkowski to amend the agenda by listing New Business next.

All in favor. Motion carries

7. New Business

a) Email from Micah Jasny, Botanical Coordinator, Native Plant Trust to CAC

Micah Jasny stated that he belongs to a non profit plant conservation organization that partners with CT DEEP to monitor plant populations of rare and endangered species in CT. The Native Plant Trust is interested in monitoring the American Featherfoil.

This plant is a State listed species that is either rare or endangered at the State or Federal level. The Native Plant Trust is a citizen science program that trains amateur botanists to conduct plant surveys to assist with collecting data. There are 24,000 rare plant populations scattered throughout New England which is too many populations for state botanists to survey with regularity. The Native Plant Trust was created to assist these state agencies by collecting data and sharing it with the state.

A motion was made by L. Crary and seconded by G. Piszczek to allow Micah Jasny from The Native Plant Trust to survey the open space land on Thomas Road. Pending notification to the 1st Selectwoman.

All in favor. Motion carries.

b) Open Space Report for PZC

Chairman Piszczek stated that Planning & Zoning is very unclear about how much open space and where it is located in the Town, and he will get a list to them and a description of what the management is on these properties.

Chairman Piszczek noted that there is a lot of easement property that no one knows about including members that are on the zoning board, and he would like to develop a map with Kathy Warzecha.

R. Charpentier stated that she would like to see a map of trails in Preston.

M. Snurkowski noted that open space and easement information will be listed on deeds. It is a matter of going through all the deeds to find the information.

R. Charpentier offered to work on this.

7. Old Business

a) Amos Lake Association

Chairman Piszczek stated that the funding the ALA requested for the study has been approved.

Chairman Piszczek asked Pat Monahan if she had any information on a time line and when the funds need to be released.

Pat Monahan answered that she does not have any information yet and the State is still working on their documentation.

P. Monahan discussed having an organized paddle on the Lake and noted that she will email information to CAC members on the Webster Lake full moon and sunset paddles.

b) Clustered Zoning Regulations

Chairman Piszczek noted that the more P&Z meeting he attends he doesn't feel that clustered zoning is a good fit for Preston. This Commission should work with land owners who want to preserve their property and not develop it.

M. Snurkowski stated he supports the clustered zoning, but if its not mandatory everyone is going to go with their subdivisions, and didn't think it is a cause that would stick in Town.

L. Crary thought a densely populated community would be into this, but people living in Preston are on 2 acre lots.

d) Farm Dating Program/Diane Hansen, Community Based Project

Chairman Piszczek will speak to Sue Mattern about this project.

e) State Hospital Development.

R. Charpentier stated that the PRA is in discussion with the State regarding the State's requests for various reports and documentation.

f) Beaver behavior report.

The beavers have abandoned the Piszczek property.

g) Petroglyph in Preston, CT

M. Snurkowski is going to look for it when the waters recede during the Summer.

Chairman Piszczek reminded R. Charpentier to ask about this.

h) Kendall Property Update

Chairman Piszczek noted that the closing will be August 31st.

I) Pumpkins for Preston Plan

M. Snurkowski and Chairman Piszczek will grow pumpkins for Diane Hansen's class.

M. Snurkowski noted that he feels lucky about the pumpkins this year

j) Subdivision Application #2021-01, Flagg & Simpson, 583 Route 164; Create 6 new lots

P&Z will vote on this at their next meeting.

8. Boots on the Ground – paddles in the water report

No comments

10. Meanderings

No comments

11. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded by to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



**Roberta Charpentier
Preston Recording Secretary**