

**SUFFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

**PRESENT:**

**Art Christian, Chairman  
Glenn Neilson, Vice Chairman  
Norm John Noble  
Pat Reilly  
Gary Phelps  
Jessica McCue  
Tom Elmore**

**CONSULTANT:** **Keith Morris**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER- 7:00 P.M.**

Chairman Christian called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Consultant Morris read the agenda. Alternate Commissioners McCue and Elmore shall be voting members in place of Commissioners Wilcox and Fanous who were not present.

**INFORMAL DISCUSSION:**

**1. Parks and Recreation Sunrise Park 2024 Summer Schedule**

Parks and Recreation Director Peter LeClerc addressed the Commission and went over the Parks and Recreation 2024 Summer Program at Sunrise Park. A discussion followed on use of the pavilion during the summer camps and setting up life guards and gate attendants for the summer months. Mr. LeClerc stated that the summer programs typically only utilize the picnic tables during a rain event. Mr. LeClerc stated that he has a great working relationship with Parks Superintendent Tom O'Brien.

**2. Suffield Stony Brook Interceptor**

Michael Headd, Professional Engineer from Woodard & Curran, and WPCA Superintendent Jamie Kreller addressed the Commission. Mr. Headd handed out pictures of the damage to the Stony Brook Interceptor due to recent storms. They are in the process of designing emergency repairs to the interceptor which should be completed in five to six weeks. Mr. Headd went over details of the proposed work and answered questions from the Commission. Consultant Morris asked if the work will require a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Headd stated that they would submit a self-certification form to the Corps. There will also be stream bank repair above the mean annual high water mark.

After discussion, Mr. Morris will review the permit from several years ago to see if it can be amended to include the current proposed emergency repairs when the design is completed.

### **3. Denishchich – Site Work – 1500 Hill Street**

Consultant Morris updated the Commission regarding 1500 Hill Street. The homeowner has spread animal waste within the wetland area and therefore Mr. Morris issued a “notice of violation” to homeowner Nikolai Denishchich instructing him to cease all activity within the wetland and to attend tonight’s meeting. Mr. Morris also talked with the homeowner to explain the violation and he is present at tonight’s meeting. The Commission discussed the situation and instructed the homeowner to remove the animal waste from the wetland and store it at least 50’ from the wetland area, cover it with plastic and surround it with erosion controls or remove it from the site and dispose of it at a proper location. Mr. Denishchich stated that one of his new workers is responsible for the violation and agreed with the Commission’s request. The Commission will revisit this violation at their next meeting in two weeks, and requested that the work be completed by that time.

A lengthy discussion followed on the overall farming operation on site and concerns were expressed by numerous neighbors who attended the meeting. Tung Nguyen from the North Central Health District was present and gave an overview of several “notice of violations” the District has issued to the homeowner. He stated that some of the requested work has been completed but that Mr. Denishchich is not yet in complete compliance with the notices.

The discussion on removal of the animal waste will be updated at the March 12, 2024 meeting of the Commission.

### **PARKS SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Parks Superintendent Tom O’Brien presented his report to the Commission. The full moon hike at Stony Brooke Park was a success. The recent storms have resulted in numerous trees coming down at Stony Brooke Park and Mr. O’Brien stated that he will walk the park to assess the damage. There was a rescue operation on February 20<sup>th</sup> involving several hikers who lost their way at Sunrise Park. Mr. O’Brien gave details of the rescue. The coordination with the new public works director was then discussed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**CONSULTANT’S REPORT:**

Consultant Morris discussed the annual report for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The Commission did not have any changes to the report and Consultant Morris stated he would submit it to the Assistant To the First Selectman,

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 23, 2024 MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Noble made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reilly and carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner McCue made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reilly. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by  
Norm John Noble  
Recording Secretary