

Guilford Conservation Commission  
Land Stewardship Committee  
draft Meeting Minutes  
**Monday, December 3, 2018**  
**Community Center – Leete Room**

Members Present: Heather Allore (secretary), Doug Clark(chair), George Goss, Paul Mei,  
Rob Musterer, Phil Regas, and Lynn Saiers  
Alternates: Sally Whiteman  
Alternates Absent:  
Staff: Kevin Magee

The meeting was opened at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Doug Clark

1. Approval of Agenda

Paul Mei made motion to approve the agenda that was seconded by Heather Allore. It was unanimously voted to approve the agenda

2. Approval of Minutes – October 1, 2018 regular meeting

Paul Mei made motion to approve the minutes from October 1, 2018 as corrected. The motion was seconded by Phil Regas and was unanimously voted to approve the minutes as corrected.

3. Welcome Guest

None

4. Public Forum: None

5. Chairperson Report (Doug Clark)

- Doug Clark received a report from Bill Johnson that on October 14<sup>th</sup> that dirt bikes were racing on New England Trail at Bluff Head
- Doug Clark observed truck tracks/ruts on Braemore’s Inner Loop on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Any incidents like this should be reported to the Guilford Police Department non-emergency number 203-453-8061. Kevin Magee indicated that he should be also notified of the problem.
- Been out in Timberland there is a lot of wet trails and a few blow downs that need to be taken care of.
- Inner loop at Braemore Preserve is very wet.

6. Conservation Commission Liaison Report (Doug Clark)

- a. Living with nature series last event was on invasive plants. Kudzu is moving into Connecticut with climate change. The next living with nature series will be on amphibians and as part of the series there will be a walk to vernal pools.

- b. Timberland Preserve: Kevin Magee indicated that the Conservation Commission is looking to update Timberland Forest Management plan to an overall management plan of the property. The last plan was created in 1997 and there has been several harvest conducted since then. The last harvest had some controversy from the neighbors and the commission would like a new plan that would review the previous harvest. Kevin has placed a capital budget request of \$15,000 to the Board of Selectman.
- c. East River Preserve Deer Management Plan
  - A member of the public was at the September meeting of the Conservation Commission to advocate for a more human practice than bow hunting. The commission will be looking at options. This is the third year of the deer management plan and a the past activities need to be reviewed by the Board of Selectman to determine if a hunt will be needed for the next couple year.
  - Being Ecology Brochure: Doug Clark created brochure on how people can be ecological in the community. The brochure will be used by the Conservation Commission at events.
- d. When out and about keep an eye out for invasive species. Heather asked about the use of brush hog mower along trails near the trail heads.

#### 7. CFPA Liaison Reports (Paul Mei)

- Paul received an Ok from Connecticut Forest and Parks Association to purchase materials for the New England Trial. They will be starting with repairs on the board walk through out the New England Trail System and will be providing funding for the boardwalk at the Timberland North Madison Road trail head. Paul indicated that they have other bogs with wood crossings on the New England Trail that also require repairs. Needs to get into calling the trail the New England Trail (NET)
- Starting to get inquires with people looking to get involved with the trails. They are connecting people with trail manager.
- CFPA has procedure for widow makers. They leave them in place and flag the tree.
- Kiosks at James River Valley North Branford/Guilford line has been repaired.

#### 8. Environmental Planner (Kevin Magee)

- Kevin Magee indicated that he went to the Board of Selectman's Capital Budget meeting and requested funding for a compact tractor that would be equipped with a loader, backhoe, brush hog, and auger.
- Kevin Magee indicated that he will be meeting with the new town engineer and the public works director regarding constructing the new parking area on Sullivan Drive.
- Heather Allore asked about installing an area for launching kayaks and canoes at the Bearhouse Hill entrance to the East River Preserve. Kevin Magee indicated that he would need to place that in at future budget and talk with the conservation commission.

9. Trail/section reports; scheduling work parties

A. Braemore Preserve:

- A new gate installed at the Crooked Hill Road entrance.
- The inner loop trail is a mess
- Red Ridge trail has blowdowns between the Lone Pine Trail and the Madison line.

B. East River Preserves:

- George Goss cleared the leaves around the Clapboard Hill Road Parking lot and along the East Side Trail.
- Heather reported she saw no new ATV activity at the East River Preserve with the work conducted by the power company. George Goss indicated that the Guilford Land Trust had a problem with someone cutting the wire gate at the Podunk Road entrance and driving along the power lines.

C. Northwoods: No Reports

D. Timberlands:

- Several blow downs were reported. One is on the white X to blue trail near the gulch. The 2<sup>nd</sup> is on the orange trail with the rope trail near a board walk.

10. Other Business:

- Kevin Magee indicated that he is looking to purchase property use signs for the open space properties and will provide a proof for the commission to review at the next meeting.

11. 2019 Meeting Dates: Kevin Magee went over the proposed meeting dates for 2019. There was no objection regarding the dates.

Adjournment:

Then, with no further business before it, upon a motion by Paul Mei and seconded by Heather Allore, which was unanimously voted, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

**The next meeting of the Land Stewardship Committee will be February 4, 2019 in the Alexander Lounge**

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Magee  
Environmental Planner