

# MINUTES

**A SCHEDULED ROOSEVELT FOREST COMMISSION MEETING WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016 AT THE STRATFORD TOWN HALL IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 7:00 P.M.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Bob David; Chairman, Pete Mariconda; Vice Chairman, Chuck Emerson, Bob Ford, Jim Brown, Ellen Scerba-Carey, Frank Bevacqua, Elaine Watson Tina Manus, 10<sup>th</sup> District, Town Council, Allen Llewelyn, District 9 ~ Town Council

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Bob David, Chairman, Pete Mariconda, Vice Chairman, Frank Bevacqua, Jim Brown, Bob Ford, Ellen Scerba-Carey, Chuck Emerson, Tina Manus, Allen Llewelyn

GUEST: Tina Batoh, Conservation Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER: 7: 04 P.M by Bob David, Chairman

At 7:04 p.m. Bob David introduced Laura Simon who is Wild Life Ecologist from the Humane Society of the United States. Laura gave a presentation on Beavers. She explained how the Beavers live and resolution issues on ways to control the damage that they could cause such as; flooding.

Beavers are “nature’s engineers”. The build dams, lodges, their food source are trees, they eat the bark of the trees they do not eat the dead bark, however they do use this to build their dams. Why do they build dams? To create a constant water level so they can be close to food source. They live in their lodge to stay protected. They mainly don’t venture out further than 100 feet from their lodge. She also explained that trapping beavers is not a resolution to the damage that they may cause. Beavers will re-colonize areas that they were trapped out of. It is proven that their population will actually expand after trapping is done. The success rate of trapping is only 16% when a piping system success rate is over 90%, when it comes to flooding issues.

Laura also explained about the piping systems that can be installed. This is the best resolution to control the flooding issues that beavers can cause. This stops the flooding yet allows the beavers to remain in their hababit. She recommended that we use a company out of Massachusetts called Beavers Solutions, LLC. If the pipes are installed correctly and by a professional who has experience in this the Beavers will not feel the need to build another dam. These pipes will maintain the water levels. This a very reasonable priced resolution. There is minimal maintenance that the pipes do require. Beaver Solutions, LLC will provide this service or teach volunteers how to do it. Basically the maintenance is to be sure that the filter on the pipe is kept free of debris. The price is approximately \$2,000.00 for each pipe and the maintenance is approximate \$200.00/ year.

Laura explained how to protect the tree that surround their dam. Installing mesh fencing around the trees will prevent them from destroying the trees. Or a paint/sand mixture can be painted on the trees. 8 oz. of mason sand to 1 quart of latex paint. This is prevent the beavers from those trees.

Bob David called a 5 minutes recess at 8:10 p.m.

The meeting was called to order again at 8:19 p.m.

Bob David thanked Laura Simon for giving us the informative presentation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A Motion was made by Jim Brown and Seconded by Ellen Scerba-Carey for Approval of the minutes from the March 3, 2016 Roosevelt Forest Commission Meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

THE BEAVER DAM ~ A Motion was made by Pete Mariconda and seconded by Allen Llewelyn to approve the attached resolution regarding the Beaver Dam(s). Motion was passed unanimously.

Tina Manus made a friendly amendment to the Resolution. In the 8<sup>th</sup> paragraph of the Resolution “ THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roosevelt Forest Commission here by demands that the cruel and inhuman act of trapping animals within the forest be cease and desist immediately, and ony be enacted pursuant with the legal process described within Stratford Town Code 152.2.” The motion was passed unanimously.

A Motion was made by Tina Batoh that the word “Illegal” be scratched from the 8<sup>th</sup> paragraph. The Motion was passed unanimously.

A roll call was also taken regarding the approval on the Beaver Resolution. All commission member approved it.

The Commission would like to form a sub-committee for the Beaver Issue. The Commission members as well as any others, were asked if they would like co-sponsor the resolution. The following members would like to co-sponsor the resolution:

Frank Bevacqua  
Tina Manus  
Allen Llewellyn  
Pete Mariconda  
Elaine Watson

Tina Batoh stated that all traps are removed from the Forest. She will be sure that all signs are removed as well.

A motion was made by Allen Llewelyn and seconded by Tina Manus that 3 Request for Bid Proposals (one including Beavers Solutions, LLC). This must be done on a professional service municipal bid. The sub-committee will work with the town for the Request for Proposals.

PAVILLION~ Tina Batch stated that Chad Esposito recommends that we take appointments for the usage of the pavilion. He suggested that we do not charge for the usage this year. He also stated that a liability insurance policy must be taken out as well.

The committee feels that there should not be a charge for the usage of the pavilion. However we do need a process for the usage of the pavilion.

Bob Ford made a Motion for a one year trial basis to accept reservations for the use of the pavilion. Frank Bevequa seconded the motion The motion was passed unanimously.

Elaine Watson suggested that we advertise pavilion and scout land on the town web-site so residents are aware.

Bob Ford stated that there is a tree that is down on the red trail it has been there since 2012 could we please have public works department remove this tree.

Also at the youth camping area near the stream the bridge needs to be repaired.

Tina Batoh will take care of these issues.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Ellen Scerba-Carey asked if the Commission could possible acquire property that is adjacent to the forest. The property address is 795 James Farm Road. Tina Batch stated that this property is already owned by 400 North Avenue, LLC.

A motion was made by Tina Manus and seconded by Ellen Scerba-Carey that the Commission write a letter to the mayor to inquire if it is possible to purchase this property. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Ellen Scerba-Carey will write this letter to the Mayor.

A friendly amendment was made by Bob Ford that this property would be incorporated into the forest. All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made to adjourn at 9:17 pm. By Jim Brown and seconded by Frank Bevacqua. Passed unanimously

The next regularly scheduled Roosevelt Forest meeting will be held on Wednesday, April, 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 152-1 of the Stratford Town Code the Proposed Development Plan for Roosevelt Forest, Town of Stratford, dated July 1, 1961 was adopted by the Stratford Town Council to provide recreational areas, maintain natural beauty and provide protection of the forest;

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Stratford Town Code Section 152-2 the Stratford Town Council created the Roosevelt Forest Commission to develop rules and regulations for the use, both public and private, of Roosevelt Forest, which rules shall be approved by the Town Council and to adopt, update, revise and implement a plan for the use of Roosevelt Forest;

WHEREAS, Stratford Town Code Section 152-2 also provides that no work may be performed within Roosevelt Forest, other than routine maintenance and minor improvements, without the recommendation of the Roosevelt Forest Commission and the appropriate Council Committees, and the approval of the Town Council;

WHEREAS, Stratford Town Code Section 152-3 prohibits hunting and trapping in Roosevelt Forest and states specifically:

No person shall do any hunting or trapping of any game birds or animals or discharge any firearms of any kind whatsoever, set any traps or use any bows or other devices for the taking of any birds or animals within the bounds and limits of Roosevelt Forest or any public park located in the Town of Stratford;

WHEREAS, the Roosevelt Forest Commission supports the wildlife and habitat of Roosevelt Forest, as well as, all residents who utilize and live near this beautiful natural resource and believes that residents and animals can coexist;

WHEREAS, the Roosevelt Forest Commission finds that the trapping of any animal including Beaver within the forest is cruel and inhumane.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roosevelt Forest Commission hereby demands that the illegal, cruel and inhumane act of trapping animals within the forest cease and desist immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Roosevelt Forest Commission hereby creates a Nuisance Wildlife Subcommittee to create a long-term wildlife management plan to preserve the forest for safe and enjoyable usage by all town residents for decades to come.

Such Subcommittee shall be made up of the following stakeholders: (1) Member of the Roosevelt Forest Commission (who shall serve as chairman); (1) member of the conservation commission; (1) member of the parks and recreation committee; (1) conservation administrator or mayoral designee; (2) town residents who use the forest; (1) resident of Stratford directly

impacted by the forest or surrounding area.

The subcommittee shall submit a written long-term wildlife management plan that does not include inhumane trapping of animals to the Roosevelt Forest Commission within 6 months time. The commission shall adopt a long-term wildlife management plan to be enforced by the Town of Stratford no later than 90 days after submission from the subcommittee.

Adopted by: The Roosevelt Forest Commission of the Town of Stratford,  
Connecticut this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2016

THE ROOSEVELT FOREST COMMISSION  
OF THE TOWN OF STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT

BY: \_\_\_\_\_,Chairman

Robert J. David