

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Cone Room
January 2, 2020**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Urling Searle, Nancy Dickinson, Lisette Henrey, Sue Baker, and Garry Silberberg,

Staff present: Patricia Sesto, Sarah Coccaro, and Aleksandra Moch

Audience Present: n/a

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:16 pm by Rutherford

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** none present
- 2) **Review and approve of draft minutes of November 7, 202 meeting:** Motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Henrey to approve the minutes as presented.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence:** no correspondence.
- 4) **Chairman's Report:** no report
- 5) **Plan of Conservation and Development**

Sesto reported the plan was approved at the last RTM meeting. Sue Baker was one of the commission members attending the meeting. Rutherford stated the action items listed at the end of the document will be a subject of discussion on the upcoming meetings. Sesto walked the commission members through the tasks and explained how they were assigned to different departments. This is a ten-year plan, so the commission can prioritize them their own way.

Sesto went over a year in review sheet which highlighted the accomplishments, goals not met, and only partially addressed. The completed tasks included participation in writing of POCD, pool riffle and v-stem programs, and launching of both Conservation Caboodle, and sustainable committee. Most of the goals are ongoing programs. Goals not reached included education of private well owners, revisions to 2015 Open Space Plan, cyano bacteria study, and support to designate new Scenic Roads.

Coccaro stated she is in contact with John Mullaney, USGS, who is writing a proposal for the new ground water study. Sesto added there is potential for federal funding if the study has broader context.

The goal related to historic cemetery oversight was further discussed. Rutherford recognized the work done previously by the sub-committees and suggested the cemeteries should be documented. Dickinson reported inspecting most of them with Henrey. They found them predominantly in good condition. She believed the Conservation Commission should be the lead on their documentation, but the records should be retained by the Historical Society.

Sesto encouraged the commission members to review the list of the goals for the new year and provide their comments. It was suggested the goals to be categorized as ongoing and time-defined projects. Sesto recommended members look at the POCD tasks and incorporate some of them to the list.

6) Staff Reports

a) Conference/Program reminders

- Sustainable CT webinars and events – ongoing
- Earth Day, April 22nd, 2020 – 50th Anniversary of Earth Day
- May 3, 2020 – Conservation Commission hosting lecture at First Sunday Science Series on World Fish Migration Day and Mianus River fish ladder.
- May 16, 2020 – World Fish Migration Day and Mianus River fish ladder Open House event.
- December 1, 2019 – Conservation Commission hosting lecture at First Sunday

7) Conservation Caboodle

Sesto reported the last meeting was very productive. A lot of collaboration between different groups/organization resulted from it. One good example is a new group which formed to work on a new legislation banning styrene and plastic straws where the members represent several environmental groups.

8) New projects

A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the Conservation Commission members on the topics below:

- a) DPW/CC pollinator project
- b) iNaturalist project
- c) High Water Markers
- d) Phragmites removal at Bruce Park
- e) Outdoor composters for two Greenwich elementary schools – fundraising with “ioby”

9) Education/Outreach

A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the Conservation Commission members on the topics below:

- a) Neighbor Magazine article
- b) Waste Reduction Program
- c) Green Schools

10) New initiatives: a written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the Conservation Commission members on the topics below:

- a) Earth Week in Schools: Sesto reported private and public schools will work tighter to develop a uniform plan for five days of celebration. A workbook will be drafted to provide detailed directions. A meeting took place with Toni Jones, Superintendent of Schools to ask for help and support.
- b) Electric School Busses
- c) Artificial Turf and Middle Schools – budget proposal – BET meeting on January 9th.
- d) Straws and Styrene Ban
- e) Sustainable Committee

11) Committee and Liaison Reports

- a) Parks and Rec Board: Baker reported, December meeting was canceled.
- b) GRAB: Dickinson reported Fred Camilo, first selectman, attended the meeting. Recycling collected in town has low contamination and the town is not paying for its disposal. Annually 35,000 tons of garbage and 18,000 tons of recyclable material is generated by the households. *Greenwich Time* featured a detailed article on this topic on November 28, 2019.
The annual paper shredding was scheduled for April 25th.
Greenwich works with seven different towns on Household Hazardous Waste collection. The date of the next event had not been released.
The pilot program at three public schools using the new sorting stations resulted in waste reduction of 59% on average.
- c) Harbor Management Commission: Baker reported the Commission received a new application for a kelp farm and for a new dock at 52 Pear Lane.
The update on dredging was provided.
The term for the Harbor Master is up, bringing debate regarding the new appointment.

12) Old Business

- a) Sea Level Rise Study – update: Sesto reported the time line with the consultant had been revised.
The consultant requested Sesto confirm which projection scenarios should be used and CIRCA's was chosen.
- b) Mylar Balloon – status: n/a

- c) Durable Lunch Trays – update: Sesto reported the Board of Education had approved dishwashers at schools. The question is whether there is going to be a central one or one at each school. The first option appears to be more solid and less expensive.
- d) Energy Commission – update: Sesto reported the proposed ordinance has been submitted to the RTM for consideration at their January 21st meeting.

11) New Business: none

12) Executive Session – negotiations

Motion as made by Silberberg and seconded by Dickinson to move to the executive session at 8:45pm.

Motion was made by Baker and seconded by Silberberg to move out of executive session at 8:53 pm.

13) Adjournment: Motion was made by Baker and seconded by Dickinson to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch
Environmental Analyst