

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
January 7, 2016**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: Eric Brower, Sue Baker, Nancy Dickinson, Gary Silberberg, Urling Searle (from 7:19 p.m.) and Theodore Walworth III

Staff present: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

Audience Present: n/a

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Brower.

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** Walworth was seated for Rutherford.
- 2) **Review and approval of minutes** for the December 3, 2015 regular meeting: A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Baker to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence:** Savageau stated that the subscription of the Wildlife magazine was renewed so that members will begin receiving with next issue.
- 4) **Chairman’s Report:** Brower reminded those of the Commission member who are up for reappointment to submit their request in timely manner.
- 5) **Staff Report**
 - a) **Administrative**
 - i) **Budget 2016-17:** Savageau reported that the proposed budget was submitted to the First Selectman’s office. She met with Town Administrator, Ben Branyan to go over the details including staffing request.
 - b) **Water Supply**
 - i) **Drought/dry weather update:** Savageau stated that the Town is still experiencing a water deficit and is much of the State. Although we have received some rain, it has not been enough to fully recover. Groundwater levels also remain a concern. She will continue to monitor.

c) **Hazard Mitigation/Community Resiliency**

- i) **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program:** Savageau stated that there are only two pending applications left to be awarded.
- ii) **Community Resiliency Planning**
 - (1) **Coastal priorities:** no discussion
 - (2) **Grant opportunities:** Savageau reported that with Conservation staff assistance, the Town applied for a 1.4 million grant. If received, the funds would allow for long-term planning regarding the protection of the existing infrastructures. An installation of a living shoreline would be taken into consideration as part of the solution.

d) **Coastal Resources**

- i) **Shellfish Commission with University of Connecticut (UConn) and National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA):** Savageau stated that the Town is in the process of drafting a cooperative agreement between the parties. The Town hopes to use the research and the collected data to support and enhance their program such as the monitoring of water quality, gathering information on physical and biological characteristics of the coastal area, etc. The existing model that is being used for the study is designed to determine which species are the most successful under the current conditions of the existing aquatic habitat.
- ii) **Long Island Sound Watershed Planning:** was not discussed

e) **Status Reports**

- i) **Open Space Plan:** Savageau reported that the maps were revised and updated. The current efforts are focused on re-defining of the “private property” layer.
- ii) **Clean Energy:** was not discussed
- iii) **POCD**
 - (1) **Tree ordinance:** Savageau stated that she would reach out to the Western Connecticut Council of Governments to check on their current work on tree ordinances.
 - (2) **Scenic Roads:** was not discussed

6) **Committee/Liaison Reports**

- a) **Parks and Recreation Board:** Baker stated that Greenwich Point and the New Lebanon School were the two major topics at the meeting. The issues of beach overcrowding and unleashed dogs were discussed. The New Lebanon School focus was on the new school location.
- b) **GRAB (Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board):** no meeting
- c) **Education/Outreach**
 - i) **Leaf Recycling:** Savageau reported that the Commission had received a \$20,000 grant supporting the new compost program in Town. After the introduction to

compost is implemented in two pilot schools, a series of workshops will be planned for the landscape professionals.

ii) **School Outreach:** Moch stated that Riverside School is up and running with their new composting program.

iii) **Harbor Management Commission**

(1) **Draft Harbor Management Plan:** Savageau indicated that she has continued to provide input to the HMC on the draft but is still concerned about how the plan is progressing. Baker stated that there will be an addendum to the proposed Harbor Management Plan with the new changes.

d) Cemetery Committee: was not discussed

7) **Old Business:** none

8) **New Business:** none

9) **Executive Session – Land Acquisition:** A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Baker to enter the executive session at 8:33 p.m. A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Walworth to exit the session at 8:57 p.m.

10) **Other/ Announcements:** none

11) **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dickinson and seconded by Baker to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch