

**Conservation Commission Meeting  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
February 1, 2018**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

**Members present:** William Rutherford, Lisette Henrey, Urling Searle, Sue Baker, Nancy Dickinson, Gary Silberberg, Eric Brower, Skip Parker, Theodore Walworth, and Laura di Bonaventura.

**Staff present:** Denise Savageau, Sarah Nahabedian, and Aleksandra Moch

**Audience Present:** Peter Tesei, First Selectman; Karen Fassuliotis, BET; Elizabeth Dempsey; Marija Mikolajczak, GCA; Allison Walsh, RTM; Jane Kochersperger, GCA; James Webster, GCA; Jim Aliello, Jennifer Turiano, Greenwich Time.

**Commission Discussion Session** – 7:00 p.m.

**Meeting called to order** at 7:03 p.m. by Rutherford

1) **Seating of Alternates:** not needed

2) **Review and approval of minutes** for January 11, 2018 special meeting: A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Silberberg to approve the minutes with the following amendment: under Old Business – Fracking Waste Ordinance, the motion should read as follows:

*Upon review of the extensive research provided by the RTM subcommittee and given that the CT General Assembly did not pass HB 6329, the Conservation Commission supports the ordinance, banning the use and disposal of waste produced from oil and natural gas extraction, that is currently before the RTM.*

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Baker to suspend the rules and take the agenda out of order to go to Chairman's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Chairman's Report:

- a. Rutherford's stated this would be Savageau's last official meeting as Conservation Director as she is retiring as of March 1. He expressed his appreciation for Savageau's over 20 years of service for the Conservation Commission and was supported by a loud ovation from all members.
- b. Di Bonaventura was officially welcomed by Rutherford as a new commission member.
- c. Moch was recognized for her 15 years of service for the Town.

- d. FY2019 Budget – Rutherford introduced First Selectman Peter Tesei and indicated that he had invited the First Selectman to the meeting to present and discuss his proposed budget that includes changes to the Conservation Commission staff.

Tesei began by expressing his appreciation for Savageau’s hard work and dedication for the Town. He provided a long list of her achievements.

Tesei distributed a packet of information to Commission members and proceeded to outline his proposed plan and the reasons that he thought this should be implemented. The proposed plan eliminates 2 MC positions, the Conservation Director and Director of IWWA positions, and creates one MC level position call the Director of Environmental Affairs. The proposal also would have the Conservation Resource Manager I position move from part-time to full-time. Rutherford presented his concerns as outlined in a memo to the BET at the public hearing on January 29, 2018. Rutherford’s comments were followed by comments and concerns expressed by the Conservation Commission members. Rutherford thanked Tesei for presenting his information to the Commission who then left the meeting.

The Commission continued to discuss their concerns and were in general agreement that the proposed change would not benefit the Conservation Commission and that over time, this would lead to a reduction in the independent role of the Conservation Commission with more weight being given to the regulatory nature of the IWWA. Savageau reviewed the BET budget process for the Commission.

Due to the lateness of the evening the Commission decided to adjourn without taking up the rest of the agenda with the exception of a brief update under old business.

2. Old Business:
  - a. Waste Ordinance status: Savageau reported that the proposed ordinance will be heard by RTM in March
  - b. Plastic Bag Ban – status: Savageau stated that the ban most likely be presented at the RTM meeting in March.

### 3. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch  
Environmental Analyst