Conservation Commission Meeting  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
February 2, 2017  

Minutes  

Attendance:  


Staff present: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch  

Audience Present: n/a  

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.  

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Rutherford.  

1) Seating of Alternates: Parker was seated for Henrey.  

2) Review and approval of minutes for January 4, 2017 site walk and January 5, 2017 regular meeting: A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Dickinson to approve regular meeting minutes of 1/4/2017 with the following corrections: Page 1 under audience correct name to Jay Louden; and page 3 correct first paragraph to read “ice-skating rink”. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Brower to approve 1/5/2017 site walk minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.  

3) Review of Correspondence:  
   a) Connecticut Wildlife magazine was distributed.  

4) Chairman’s Report: no report  

5) Staff Report  

   a) Administration  
      i) Staffing/Office reconfiguration: Savageau stated that the job announcement went out for the Conservation Resource Manager I position. The application deadline is February 6, 2017.  

Savageau reported that the Land Use office would be slightly reconfigured. The changes include relocation of the receptionist desk further forward to create more obvious access for the public. The Conservation Resource Manager I would be relocated into the wetland section of the office where a new work space will be created after the removal of map holding cabinets. The vacated space would be taken
over by the Application Coordinator to satisfy the need for larger space for storage and meetings.

ii) **Budget and Planning**: Savageau stated that the heads of Land Use met with BET Budget Committee to discuss the permitting process. This is part of an ongoing effort to ensure that the process is efficient for applicants but also balance this with the need for transparency and protecting the public good. The budget committee had no questions about the land use budget.

**b) Water Supply**

i) **Update on drought conditions**: Savageau stated that the reservoirs in Greenwich are at 61% capacity, however we are still in a drought and under a water supply emergency order from CT Dept. of Public Health. This is due in part to recent precipitation, water conservation efforts and temporary pipelines from the Bridgeport system. It is projected that full capacity in reservoirs would be reached by May.

Greenwich has received average rainfall over the last few months, but over the past year, we are still down around 11 inches or so. The water situation is being evaluated and she expects that water restrictions will be revised that will balance supply and demands with a focus on outdoor water conservation. The goal is to ensure that we don’t deplete the reservoirs this summer.

ii) **Water Conservation Task Force**:

1. **Regional**: Savageau stated that an educational program would be scheduled for the end of February, beginning of March. Municipalities included in Aquarion water system (Greenwich, Darien, New Canaan and Stamford) would work together on education and potential long-term water restrictions.

2. **Statewide**: Savageau reported that the state is considering to enact lawn irrigation restrictions, limiting watering to two days per week.

iii) **CT State Water Plan** - Savageau reported on the development of the State Water Plan. This is a huge effort and it is important that they hear from a municipal perspective. The group is looking to engage members with technical experience and expertise. They are now in Phase II of the plan development and have a series of workshops that she will be attending.

**c) Long Island Sound**

i) **Citizen Advisory Committee**: no meeting

ii) **Blue Plan**: Savageau reported on a statewide issue concerning the location of alternative energy sources. The CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation has released a report on the impacts on farm and forest land. She indicated that since the Blue Plan is addressing spatial uses of LIS, that the committee working on this should be reviewing the report for any similarities. She also suggested that this work needs
to look at all water resources including reservoirs.

d) MS4 Stormwater Permit: no update

e) Sustainable CT Program: Savageau stated that this is a new program focusing on sustainability of municipalities. She has been invited to work the subcommittee on natural resources.

6) Committee/Liaison Reports

a) Parks and Recreation Board: Baker reported the following: at the board had discussed the replacement of Dorothy Hamill Rink in the near future. There is a possibility of constructing the new rink adjacent to the existing structure so the existing rink could be used during the development. Six months had been set aside for dredging the pond at Binney Park. The project is expected to start in July after the fireworks. The pond would be dewatered and diverted; this includes an installation of pumps that would convey the water to the other side of the stream. A new advisory board was formed to spearhead the site redevelopment at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center. The board would work on the new plans and define the uses for the new facility. Byram pool project is in progress. The footing is in and the side walls are being constructed. The Board is exploring bringing goats to Greenwich Point to control invasive species.

b) GRAB (Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board): Moch reported that one of the discussion points was the upcoming paper shredding event scheduled for April 22. It was decided that this year there would be no food collection and the fee would increase to $3 per box. Like in prior years, the sorting operation would be supported by volunteers from the Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich. Holly Hill was not approved for paint recycling. There were legal areas of the agreement which could result in future liabilities for the Town. Students from Greenwich Academy would film the recycling process. This movie would replace the past fieldtrips to the garbage museum and recycling center. The filming would depict the entire process from collecting the recyclables at home to sorting, transforming and reusing them. Julie DesChamps is working on putting together an educational program which would target local institutions organizing their recycling and customizing the program to accommodate their unique environment. She visited a synagogue in Rye which has a very sophisticated recycling program. The Hazardous Waste collection is scheduled for May 6th.

c) Education/Outreach

i) Leaf Recycling Program: Moch stated that the current focus of this program is on schools. The goal is to engaged four more schools into the composting program this year. So far the results of the composting program are very encouraging. Hamilton Avenue school measured the amount of waste produced in cafeteria prior to the composting and after the program was implemented. The difference between before and after was almost 50% decrease.
ii) **Earth Day Month:** Savageau stated that a round table meeting would be scheduled for the end of February to coordinate all the Earth Day Month efforts of all organizations in Greenwich. The proclamation is scheduled for April 2 at the First Science Sunday hosted by the Bruce Museum. The Conservation Commission staff would be actively engaged in this event. In addition, Moch would provide educational events at local schools.

iii) **Water Supply Protection Education:** Savageau stated that she will give a presentation at Round Hill Club on February 23th. The topic would cover water quality and quantity. More educational programs will be planned for this year.

iv) **PTAC Curriculum Workshop:** Savageau reported on meeting held by PTAC for those providing enrichment activities to schools. She was asked to present info on the Long Island Sound in a Jar program that Conservation staff has been providing to the fourth grade at several schools. She also encouraged the coordination of all of the environmental education efforts with school needs.

d) **Harbor Management Commission:** Baker reported that in January the plan was forwarded to CT DEEP and Army Corps of Engineers for their reviews. After the plan is accepted, it would enter the implementation phase. The applications for boat mooring will be accepted online. A PowerPoint presentation was provided to explain the process. The old waiting list was eliminated by double checking the slips and addressing vacancies. Dredging of Minus estuary is getting closed to completion.

e) **Cemetery Committee:** no meeting was held. Savageau state that while the ownership of Byram Cemetery is being resolved, the commission should proceed with researching and identifying other cemeteries in town. She has been invited to meet with Brian Jones, State Archeologist and Kathleen Holland, IWA in New Canaan to discuss the role of Conservation Commissions in cultural resource protection.

f) **Energy Committee**

i) **Eversource/Energy Efficiency Planning:** Parker provide a summary of a meeting that he attended with Rusty Parker in North Haven on micro grids. He pointed out the importance of using renewable energy as a backup system during the emergencies. This backup system is even more crucial in Greenwich considering the aging system and its susceptibility to hacking. He pointed out that 70% of energy in Newtown is generated by solar power. Savageau stated that a meeting with Eversource has been scheduled for February 3, 3017 to review benchmarking.

ii) **Green Bank – Clean Energy Rewards:** was not discussed

g) **Old Business:**

i) **POCD – Open Space Planning:** was not discussed

ii) **500 and 0 Lake Avenue – status update:** Savageau reported that she attended IWWA meeting presenting comments made by the Conservation Commission. She provided the Commission with copy of conservation zone plan submitted to IWWA by the
applicant. The Commission reviewed the plan and determined that it is prudent and feasible alternative to the proposal that the applicant is in favor of. Motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Dickinson to notify IWWA that the Commission finds the Conservation Zone plan submitted on 1/19/2017 to be a prudent and feasible alternative to the existing proposed plan and its potential impacts to wetlands and watercourses associated with Horseneck Brook. Motion carried unanimously.

7) **New Business**: none

8) **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch
Environmental Analyst

Minutes as approved 3/2/2016