

**Conservation Commission Meeting
via a Zoom virtual meeting.
February 4, 2020**

Minutes

Attendance:

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

Staff present: Sarah Coccaro, and Aleksandra Moch

Audience Present: n/a

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

1) Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Rutherford

2) Seating of Alternates: n/a

- a) Review and approve minutes of January 7, 2021: Motion was made by Baker and seconded by Brower to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed 7-0-0.

3) Review of Correspondence: no new correspondence.

4) Chairman's Report: Rutherford had asked about whether or not any of the reappointments were confirmed. Walworth, Dickinson and Henrey had received phone calls confirming their new terms. diBonaventura was concerned about several candidates attending one of the CC meetings. They have not received any response from the First Selectman. Rutherford and Sesto will follow up with Fred Camillo.

5) Conference/Program Reminders

- a) Long Island Sound Blue Plan: Updates and Next Steps virtual meetings: Thursday, February 18th 10:00 am and 7:00 pm.

To register for 10:00 am please use this link:

https://tnc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIodeyurjMtHtVIUZJ7W1_4s5ASl4kXNO3v

To register for 7:00 pm please use this link:

<https://tnc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtcOqsqj0pH92f3jRg4WhFzlsOUGBnG0w2>

- b) Sustainable CT webinars, ongoing: <https://sustainablect.org/trainings-events/trainings-eventscalendar/>

6) Ongoing projects

A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the CC members on the topics below.

a) Pollinator Pathway

b) Flood elevation posts

c) Transportation and Air Quality subcommittee: Rutherford reported he signed a letter on behalf of the CC in support for the East-West Bike Route Study proposed to be included into the CC budget FY21-22. The letter was forwarded to BET Budget Committee. diBonaventura stated Greenwich Country Day School is circulating a petition drafted also in support for the study. Moch reported an email blast was sent to all environment and sport groups in town, including the bike shop owners, asking them to contact BET and reinforce the desire to fund the study. Pedal Greenwich is working with CC to provide community outreach.

Brower voiced his concern about lack of signs for the new EV charging station. The middle level where the charger has been installed is not open to the public and lack of proper signage may make it difficult to locate.

d) Sustainable CT application

e) Bruce Park Phragmites removal grant opportunity

7) Education/Outreach

A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the CC members on the topics below.

a) Environmental Lecture Series with Cos Cob Library

8) Committee and Liaison Reports

- a) Greenscapes Committee: Coccaro stated improvements within the Cos Cob area will wait until the coastal resiliency study is completed. There is a need for better understanding of the flood patterns before any design is offered.
- b) Friends of Pinetum, Pomerance, and Tuchman: Coccaro reported Nancy and Andy Chapin submitted a request to Parks and Recreation for \$40,000 to be used for small scale park improvement projects. The Chapins postponed their presentation to the CC until they secured authorization from P&R. Moch referenced a presentation by to the Friends of Pinetum on management of passive recreation parks.

Brower asked if a fish ladder was considered before the dam replacement. In his conversation with Steve Gephard, former supervising fisheries biologist of CT DEEP, Gephard felt this was a lost opportunity.

- c) Parks and Rec Board: Baker reported the meeting focused on the new budget and proposed improvements to Pinetum, Greenwich Point, Byram Park and Dorothy Hamill Rink. It was decided no artificial turf will be installed in any of the elementary schools.

Eastern Greenwich Civic Center was pushed to the next fiscal budget.

- d) GRAB: Dickinson stated GRAB is ready to sign a contract to purchase a customizable search engine - *ReCollect Waste Wizard*. Once up and running, this app will guide the residents how to sort and dispose items in question.

In the month of December, 2.89 tons of food scraps were collected with total of 17.8 tons since July. Food scrap collection kits had shown an increased in sales since tax flyer mailing and opportunities to purchase the kits became available at Greenwich Green and Clean pop ups events and farmers market at Sam Bridge. Waste Free Greenwich is working on Compost Give Back Day planned for late March/early April.

Brower inquired about a Hazardous Waste Day. He felt a priority should be given to this waste collection event. His concern was large amount of unused fuel powering generators which accumulated over time with large number of property owners. If no opportunity for its proper disposal is provided, the gasoline may be drained into the local water bodies or soil.

The annual paper shredding even was scheduled for April 24th.

- e) Harbor Management Commission: Baker reported large number of applications for docks are being forwarded to Harbor Management Commission. Coccaro is assisting with project reviews. Baker pointed out 54 Byram Shore application for a dock is especially problematic due to the significant length of the structure, shallow water, and environmental impacts. Recent meeting with CT DEEP exposed weaknesses in Harbor Management regulations regarding dock installation. Silberberg stated the regulations were scheduled to be updated annually. He believed this provision may allow for needed adjustments. Coccaro noticed the Shellfish Commission has found natural oyster beds in this area.

9) **Old Business**

10) **New Business:**

The CC members expressed their concern about the tree clearing along I-95 associated with highway improvement project.

11) **Adjourn** at 8:25pm

Next meeting is March 4, 2021