Conservation Commission Meeting  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
February 5, 2015  

Minutes  

Attendance:  

Members present: Eric Brower, Lisette Henrey, Gary Silberberg, Nancy Dickinson and Theodore H. 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 7:12 p.m. by Brower.  

1) Seating of Alternates: Walworth was seated for Baker  

2) Review and approval of minutes for the January 8, 2015 meeting: A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Walworth to approve the minutes with the following amendments under section 5(e)(ii) Byram Cemetery add “A site walk will be scheduled and final report discussion once received. A committee will be formed to look at historical cemeteries in town. Motion approved with Dickinson abstaining since she did not attend the meeting.  

3) Review of Correspondence: na  

4) Chairman’s Report: no report  

5) Staff Report:  

a) Administrative  

   i) Budget 2015-16: Savageau reported that the First Selectman unveiled his budget proposal on February 2nd. Due to the request of BET for zero increase in staff positions, his proposal did not include the upgrade to the part-time Conservation Resource Manager I position. To satisfy the need for additional staff, an existing full time position shared with IWWA on part time basis was transfer to Conservation. This change addressed the increase workload on Conservation side. This change was made effective Feb 1. Brower stated that the resignation of the IWWA director opens up an opportunity to revisit the staffing in both departments. Sharing of staff is one of the considered options.
b) **Emergency Operations/Climate Change Adoptions**
   i) **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**: Savageau stated that no new applications have been approved since her last reporting. She is now reviewing grants still pending. Savageau stated that “Shore Up CT” is a new state of Connecticut funded low-interest loan program which provides financing for elevating of coastal properties. It appears that the requirements are so stringent that the most needy property owners do not qualify. Savageau will be contacting the State to find out how many applicants have been approved and provide her comments and concerns about the program limitations.
   
   ii) **Ecosystem Services Restoration Grant**: no news
   
   iii) **Community Resiliency Planning** – Hazard Mitigation Plan – Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WCCOG) – Public hearing – Feb 19 – 7:30 to 9 p.m. Town Hall Meeting Room: Savageau reported that the Conservation Commission is the host coordinating with WCCOG. She is looking forward to see how the Town officials’ comments from the last workshop were incorporated into this report.

c) **Watershed – Long Island Sound- Regional Conservation Partnership Program**: Savageau announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture program granted $10,000,000 for improving the water quality in Long Island Sound especially relating to nutrient management and hypoxia. The grant was awarded to the CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation. This state agency will oversee the distribution of funds through technical advisory teams. Funds can only be used on private lands with a focus on working farms and forests. Savageau was recognized at the Board of Selectmen as the key author of the grant.

d) **Wildlife/Fisheries Habitat**
   i) **Greenwich Point Habitat Assessment and Restoration**
      1) Parks and Recreation cooperative project: Savageau reported that Goclowski and Moch continue the survey of invasive species at Greenwich Point. At the same time, Spaman is moving forward with the third phase of invasive species removal program in the vicinity of the clam bake area.
      2) Greenwich Point Important Bird Area: Savageau stated that the report is close to finished.
   
   ii) **Fishway** – upcoming season: Savageau reported that a training session for volunteers, who will monitor the fishway, is scheduled for February 18, 2015 at 6 p.m.

e) **Status Reports**
   i) **POCD**
      1) **Open Space Plan Update**
         a) **Public information meeting set** for February 17, 2015 7-9 p.m. in the Cone Room: Savageau encouraged commission members to attend. The plan is available online for public access. The deadline for comments is February 23, 2015. The plan will be presented for Conservation Commission’s approval at the March meeting. Subsequently, it will be presented to P&Z and RTM.
         b) **Conservation Zone regulations**: Savageau stated that the OSP has reinforced the need to review the CZ regulations and she will be coordinating a
workgroup with DeLuca once the OSP is adopted.

ii) **Byram Cemetery**: Savageau stated that Dickinson provided comments regarding the report. Her comments have been forwarded to the Historical Perspectives, Inc.

6) **Committee/Liaison Reports**

a) **Parks and Recreation Board**: was not discussed

b) **GRAB** (Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board): was not discussed

c) **Education/Outreach**: Savageau stated that the Conservation Commission staff is preparing a program for the upcoming Earth Day Month event. The theme this year will focus on soils as it is the International Year of the Soil. Savageau stated that the Environmental Round Table will be scheduled for the end of February or beginning of March.

d) **Energy Committee**: was not discussed

e) **Harbor Management Commission**: Silberberg stated that they continue to work on the Harbor Management Plan. Savageau indicated that she has similar concerns about the plan as to how it addresses the overlapping roles of the various town agencies. Baker is coordinating discussions between Conservation, Shellfish, and Parks and Rec.

7) **New Business**: none

8) **Old Business**: none

9) **Executive Session**:

a) **Land Acquisition** – motion made by Silberberg and seconded by Walworth to go into executive session to discuss land acquisition. Motion approved unanimously. Session started at 8:30 and ended at 8:50 p.m.

10) **Other/Announcements**: Silberberg stated that another blood drive for Red Cross is scheduled for March 2nd.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch