

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

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Eric Brower, Sue Baker, Lisette Henrey, Gary Silberberg, Urling Searle, and Laura di Bonaventura.

Staff present: Sarah Nahabedian and Aleksandra Moch

Audience Present: n/a

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

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

1) Seating of Alternates: di Bonaventura was seated for Dickinson.

2) Review and approval of draft minutes:

- a) February 1, 2018 regular meeting: A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Silberberg to approve the minutes as presented.
- b) February 21, 2018 special meeting: A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Henrey to approve the minutes as presented.

3) Review of Correspondence: no correspondence

4) Chairman's Report: was not provided

- a) Administration
 - **FY2019 Budget:** Rutherford reported that the budget went through the Budget Committee. The next step is the public hearing scheduled for March 22nd. Meanwhile, Nahabedian's position was raised temporarily to full-time. There is hope that the new budget will make it permanent.
 - **Capital Improvement Project (CIP):** Moch reported that this coastal resiliency project will identify all the vulnerable areas along the coast and needed improvements. The study will be conducted in three different phases:
Phase I - would cost \$75,000 and include a thorough assessment of the existing infrastructure (first year)
Phase II - would cost another \$75,000 and evaluate the status and potential impacts of the coastal ponds and marshes (second year).

Phase III – would require \$100,000 investment and it would focus specifically on Greenwich Point (third year).

A consultant would be hired by the Town to work on the above phases.

- **Staffing Transition:** Rutherford went over the major tasks which used to be covered by the Conservation Director. The work load was divided among the staff with support of the conservation members to ensure proper coverage.
- b) **Consulting Director Update:** Rutherford stated that he is hopeful that the contract for consulting work will be approved shortly.

Rutherford left at 8:35pm and Brower took over chairman's duty

5) Staff Report

- a) Water supply: Nahabedian stated that a workshop on leak detection would be planned in Spring.
- b) Fisheries/Wildlife: Nahabedian reported that the Marine Division of Parks and Recreation made some repairs and improvements to the fishladder. The Open House event this year, would coincide with the World Fish Migration Day on April 21st. The upcoming fish monitoring season will be supported by the old group of volunteers and enhanced with some new faces. The volunteer training was scheduled for April 7th.
- c) Goose management: was not discussed
- d) Critical habitats: were not discussed
- e) Education/Outreach: Moch reported that a new calendar for all the Earth Day Month events in town was prepared by Nahabedian and will be posted on the Town's website.

6) Committee and Liaison Reports

- a) **Energy:** Silberberg reported that the additional charge posted on the energy bills is no longer exclusively used to supply low interest loans for the energy efficiency improvements and educational programs. This change impacts on-going programs such as Light Bulb Swap events enjoyed in the past.
- b) **Harbor Management Commission:** Silberberg referred to a recent article in Greenwich Time about dredging of Greenwich Harbor. He was concerned that the dredge spoils could be used to expand Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, or deposited at the head of the harbor between Grass Island and the park to rebuild marshland. The last area, was silted during the storm event on April 15, 2007, therefore, it is in desperate need of being dredged not filled.

7) Old Business

- a) Waste Ordinance – on RTM call for March 12th
- b) Plastic Bag Ban – on RTM scheduled for March 12th
- c) Mylar balloon – status: no update

8) New Business: was not discussed

9) Adjournment: Motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Searle to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch
Environmental Analyst