



**Town of
Greenwich
Conservation Commission**

**Town Hall – 101 Field Point Road - Greenwich, CT 06830
Phone 203-622-6461 Fax 203-622-3795**

*Beth Evans
Director of
Environmental Affairs*

**MINUTES
March 2, 2023**

In attendance: William Rutherford, Leslie Petrick, Gary Silberberg, Lisette Henrey, Nancy Dickinson, Ted Walworth and Eric Brower.

Also, in attendance: Beth Evans, Director of Environmental Affairs; Aleksandra Moch, Environmental Analyst; Sarah Coccaro, Assistant Director of Environmental Affairs; Rebecca Poirier, Environmental Analyst; Sandra Harris; and Dr. Nicholas F. Bellantoni, former State Archeologist

- 1) Call to Order
Chairman Rutherford called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm
- 2) Seating of Alternates
Leslie Petrick was seated for Sue Baker.
- 3) Review and approve minutes: February 2, 2023
Gary Silberberg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Nancy Dickinson and carried 7-0-0.
- 4) Review of Correspondence
No correspondence
- 5) Chairman's Report
 - a) Conservation memo to Board of Parks and Recreation
Rutherford reported the memo addressed environmental concerns in response to a private entity seeking to block off a section of Binney Park for a private event.
 - b) House Bill 7644: An act concerning tree removal and vegetation management by the CT DOT.
Rutherford explained the bill would allow more local control on tree removal along highways. JoAnn Messina, Executive Director, Greenwich Tree Conservancy went to Hartford to testify at the Environmental Committee meeting in support of the bill. Rutherford encouraged the CC to draft a letter of support.

**Conservation Commission Meeting Agenda
March 2, 2023**

- 6) Conference/ Program Reminders:
 - a) Vernal Pool public program – Saturday, March 18th, 10am. Vernal Pools near Bible Street Community Gardens. It will include walking through wooded and possibly muddy areas. Proper walking shoes are advised. Featuring Beth Evans and Matt Popp
 - b) Invasive species webinar – Wednesday, March 22nd from 7 pm to 8 pm Featuring Dr. Greg Kramer, Beth Evans, and Will Kies. Register Here:
<https://greenwichlibrary.libcal.com/event/10344116>
 - c) Turtle Lecture and Walk at Greenwich Audubon – Saturday, March 25th 11am-1pm.
 - d) The Power of Trees event March 25th, 9am-1pm, organized by Bedford 2030
https://bedford2030.org/gva_event/the-power-of-trees-a-bedford-2030-community-forum/

- 7) Fisheries/Wildlife: a written report was provided to the Commission members by staff for the topics below.
 - a) Mianus River Fish Ladder
 - b) Canada geese egg oiling

- 8) Ongoing projects: a written report was provided to the Commission members by staff
 - a) Pollinator Pathway: Moch reported CC is working with the Glenville-Pemberwick Neighborhood Association to grow native plants for the creation of new pollinator friendly places. Several internship opportunities have been considered to bring more help for the new projects. Greenwich public gardens will be included in the countywide Pollinator Pathway garden tour. One of the main goals for this year is to finish the restoration of North Street woodland.

- 9) Education/Outreach: a written report was provided to the Commission members by staff on the topics below
 - a) Vernal Pool public program
 - b) Earth Month
 - c) Spring Educational Series

- 10) Committee and Liaison Reports
 - a) Sustainability Committee
Coccaro reported at the last meeting the Committee discussed the proposed House Bills which were considered by the Environmental Committee in Hartford. Coccaro also pointed out the new issue of the Newsletter which was forwarded to the CC prior to the meeting.
(1) Transportation and Air Quality subcommittee: a written report was provided to the Commission members by staff
 - b) GRAB
Dickinson reported “wish recycling” is the main source of the contamination found in recycled material. She recommended “when in doubt, throw it out”. Several stations have

The Town complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity, affirmative action, and providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. If you require an accommodation to participate, please contact the Commissioner of Human Services at 203-622-3800 or demetria.nelson@greenwichct.org as soon as possible in advance of the event.

**Conservation Commission Meeting Agenda
March 2, 2023**

been created to collect plastic film and plastic shopping bags. Some of the local stores such as Whole Foods, Stop and Shop, etc. make the disposal more convenient.

c) Parks and Rec Board: no report

d) Harbor Management Commission: no report

e) Leaf Blower Committee

Petrick reported, Quiet Yard Greenwich presented the proposed ordinance at the February 27th meeting of the Board of Health. The presenters included three members of QYG; Amy Brown, M.D., Pediatric Pulmonologist Boston Children's Hospital, Maria Fareri Children's Hospital; Sarah F. Evans, PhD, MPH Mount Sinai; Jamie Banks, PhD, MS, Founder and President-Quiet Communities, Inc.; Sophie C. Koven, J.D., Certified Mediator and owners of the landscaping companies: Jeff Cordulack, B.S., Owner of Organic Ways & Means and Nelson Munoz, Co-owner of Chiappetta- Fierro, LLC Landscaping Company. Three members of the board were selected to review the proposed regulations. The newly formed committee will offer their recommendations at the upcoming meeting on March 27th.

9) Old Business

a) Flood markers

Brower will work on a cost estimate with the new Operation Manager in Parks and Recreation.

b) Porcelain Berry Management

Silberberg encourage the members to document the areas effected by the vine and report them, so the areas could be mapped out.

c) Byram Cemetery maintenance plan

Coccaro shared the proposed protocol prepared by Brower with the members via email. Bellantoni called in and recognized the CC for being the first in the state to incorporate the preservation of the local cemeteries into zoning regulations. He was pleased with the proposed protocol. He felt it was important to eliminate weed whackers. He agreed electric powered equipment is gentler on the tombstones. He recalled several instances when tombstones did not align with actual burial sites. Stones were often adjusted to provide a more consistent look or placed many years after the burial. The use of ground penetrating radar or electromagnetic imagining could be used as a guide before any trees are planted at the site. He agreed, the existing trees should be monitored by an arborist.

Brower asked about the best practices for the maintenance of the tombstones. Bellantoni recommended to reach out to the CT Gravestone Network and talk to Ruth Shapleigh-Brown. Dickinson asked about potential grant opportunities. Bellantoni responded the Natural Resource Conservation Center or State Archeologist could offer help with ground penetrating

The Town complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity, affirmative action, and providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. If you require an accommodation to participate, please contact the Commissioner of Human Services at 203-622-3800 or demetria.nelson@greenwichct.org as soon as possible in advance of the event.

**Conservation Commission Meeting Agenda
March 2, 2023**

radar survey. Greenwich as a Certified Local Government should qualify for free help and access to grants. Dickinson asked about the public access to privately owned cemeteries. Bellantoni stated, CT Statutes require public easement be provided.

Brower requested the CC adopt the draft of the proposed maintenance plan. Once adopted a meeting with Parks and Recreation will be arranged to incorporate further revisions to the plan and the final draft will be presented at the next CC meeting.

The draft was adopted by consensus.

d) Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Plan

Brower reported the committee had its third meeting. He praised Coccaro for setting the framework. The members explored several other plans drafted by other municipalities, including a couple in CT. A survey will be conducted to gather community input. The members will also interview the department heads and local organizations involved in sustainability and resiliency efforts. He noticed, the Town had done a lot of ground work which will benefit the plan.

10) New Business: was not discussed

11) Public Comment

Brower shared an email received from Alex Popp who was not able to attend the meeting. The email contained comments and recommendations regarding the draft of the Byram Cemetery maintenance plan.

12) Adjourn – next meeting is April 6, 2023

At 8:50 pm Dickinson made a motion, seconded by Henrey and carried 7-0-0.