

**Conservation Commission Meeting  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
March 3, 2016**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

**Members present:** William Rutherford, Eric Brower, Sue Baker, Gary Silberberg and Lisette Henrey

**Staff present:** Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

**Audience Present:** Jan Thalheim

**Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting called to order** at 7:12 p.m. by Brower.

1. **Seating of Alternates:** none
2. **Review and approval of minutes** for the February 11, 2016 regular meeting: A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Silberberg to approve the minutes with the following corrections: replace Chip Haslun, Ivey, Barnum & O’Marra, LLC with Chip Haslun, Johnson, Haslun, and Hogeman, LLC.
3. **Review of Correspondence**
  - a. Savageau distributed copies of “The Habitat” – CACIWC newsletter Winter 2016
  - b. Savageau also provided copies of FOIA requirements for meetings.
4. **Chairman’s Report:** Rutherford announced that his term is up in March 2017 and that he will not be seeking another term. He encouraged the members to start thinking about candidates for a new chairman.
5. **Staff Report**
  - a. **Emergency Operations/Climate Change Adaptations**
    - i. **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program:** Savageau reported that two of the applications remain undecided with CT DEEP. Fourteen proposals were approved. Several are near completion.
    - ii. **Community Resiliency Planning** – grant opportunity: Savageau reported that staff continues to look at funding opportunities for creation of a protective living shoreline along some areas of Greenwich Point. CT Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaption has some potential funding opportunities that will be explored.

## **b. Coastal Resources**

- i. **Shellfish Commission with University of Connecticut (UConn) and National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA):** Savageau discussed ongoing planning with Shellfish Commission and UConn. She stated one of the research areas identified includes the concerns about the high level of plastic being found in the benthic layer of Long Island Sound.
- ii. **Long Island Sound Watershed Planning:** Savageau reported that as per the Conservation Commission recommendation, she will be officially joining the Citizen Advisory Committee of the Long Island Sound Study. Savageau also reported that she was approached by Harbor Watch to conduct some water quality testing in LIS. She will be coordinating a meeting with IWWA, DPW, Health Department and the Conservation Commission to determine how they Town might work with them.
- iii. **Greenwich Point IBA Report:** Savageau stated that she has received a letter from Audubon Connecticut announcing the completion of the Greenwich Point Park Important Bird Area Conservation Plan. The plan was prepared to provide recommendations to ensure a proper maintenance and protection of this special area. She will be sending copies of report to members.

## **c. Habitat Management**

- i. **Mianus River Fishway – Open House – April 9, 10 am – 12 pm and May 21, 2pm - 4pm:** Savagau stated that Ryan worked with Cassone to repair and install the fish counter.
- ii. **Canada Geese Program:** Savagau stated that the training was moved to March 30th.

## **d. Status Reports**

- i. **Eversource – Application to CT Siting Council:** Savageau stated that DeLuca lead the efforts. The Town questions the need for this project and opposes the transmission lines going through Bruce Park. She provided information on the environmental concerns for the Park.
- ii. **P&Z Applications:** Savageau reported that staff is busy with many land use applications for review. Some of them are very complex. IWWA has requested comments on their applications as well.
- iii. **Open Space Plan:** Savageau reported that a meeting will be scheduled shortly.
- iv. **Clean Energy:** Savageau stated that benchmarking has been completed.
- v. **POCD - Scenic Roads:** was not discussed

## **6. Committee/Liaison Reports**

- a. **Parks and Recreation Board:** Baker stated that Bruce Spaman gave a report on the trees at risk program ran from 2011-2014. Eight hundred (800) trees were identified as hazardous and prioritized based on the level of risk. The department partnered with the Tree Conservancy to plant four hundred sixty (460) new trees last year. The planting plan for Binney Park is in the process of being reviewed. A long discussion

focused on the needs and design for the new Old Greenwich Civic Center. Greenwich Point plantings were discussed with focus on the area which was recently included in invasive species eradication efforts. FOGP are looking at doing work on the Holly Grove. A recommendation was made to reach out to the old records and reconstruct the original landscaping. Board of Selectmen passed the Provisional Beach Policy. The high school stadium needs a replacement of the existing artificial turf. The crumb rubber infill used before is becoming very controversial and there is a public outcry regarding its potential impacts on human health and environment. The Board decided to explore alternatives used by other schools.

- b. **GRAB (Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board):** Moch reported that the Pepper Shredding Day was set for April 30 from 9:30 am to 12:15 pm at Island Beach Parking Lot. Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup>. Greenwich Green & Clean town wide cleanup – May 14<sup>th</sup>. The GRAB members felt that the Board deserved more recognition. It was decided that a meeting will be set up with the First Selectmen to discuss the role and importance of their efforts. Green School Committee representatives met with Bill McKersie, Superintendent of Schools to discuss DeChamp’s proposal regarding the recycling at schools. The members were concerned that several large institutions in Greenwich have no recycling bins. The stations containing trash and recycle bins installed along Greenwich Avenue need to be replaced. The bin covers allow water to seep in during storm events. Collins would meet with the Law Department to discuss paint recycling.

c. **Education/Outreach**

- i. **Leaf Recycling:** Moch stated that the compost bins for Central Middle School were constructed. The next set of bins will be built for Cos Cob School. A compost presentation was given to the Greenwich Country Day School representatives. They will be working with the Town on their new organic waste management program. There is an ongoing monitoring of the existing compost bins in both Riverside and Eastern Middle School. Moch will offer educational activities at Parkway and Riverside Schools during Earth Day Month.
- ii. **Earth Day Celebration – Proclamation** – 1:30 pm at Innis Arden Cottage and First Sunday Science: was not discussed
- iii. **Harbor Management Commission – Draft Harbor Management Plan:** Baker reported that GPD had a meeting with the rowing club about markers and that Harbor Management Plan was set to be adopted. Savageau indicated that she will review to ensure that Conservation comments are in the new draft. She is concerned that the dock issue has not been addressed and that the new draft does not adequately address which agency is responsible for the different sections of the plan.
- iv. **Cemetery Committee** - Rutherford stated that Dickinson could not attend the meeting, but she forwarded a letter with recommendations on the HPI report. Brower expressed concerns about the need for restoration of the area that had been subject to a violation. Discussion ensued about how best to receive and use the report. The Commission decided to receive the report prepared by

Historical Perspectives, Inc. for consideration by the Cemetery Committee. It was understood that the HPI report is just one of many resources for the Committee to consider and that further study should be done to evaluate the site disturbance on the lower cemetery to determine the need and extent of any restoration. Savageau will post the HPI report on website with such a disclaimer to be approved by the Chairman.

7. **Old Business:** was not discussed

8. **New Business:** was not discussed

9. **Executive Session – Land Acquisition:**

A motion was made by Henrey and seconded by Baker to enter executive session at 9:10. A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Henrey to exit executive session at 9:25

10. **Other/ Announcements:** no announcements

11. **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Henrey and seconded by Baker to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch