Conservation Commission Special Meeting  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
March 9, 2015  

Minutes  

Attendance:  


Staff present: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch  

Audience Present: Peter Berg, RTM, Land Use Committee  

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.  

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Rutherford.  

1) Seating of Alternates: n/a  

2) Review and approval of minutes for the February 5, 2015 meeting: tabled until next meeting  

3) Review of Correspondence: Savageau distributed a copy of The Habitat, winter edition, and the Soil and Water Conservation District spring newsletter.  

4) Chairman’s Report: Rutherford reported on budget hearings  

5) Staff Report:  

   a) Administrative  
      i) Budget 2015-16: Savageau reported that the budget had gone through intact as presented by the First Selectman which transferred the Environmental Analyst position to Conservation and without the request for the upgrade of the part-time position. The budget now moves onto public hearing and then to the RTM in May. Rutherford stated that he has had a very good dialogue with the new IWWA Chairman and is looking forward to better communications and coordination between the two agencies.  

   b) Emergency Operations/Climate Change Adoptions  
      i) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: Savageau stated that three additional awards have been made. She and staff continue to work on addressing additional information requests and monitoring the status of the approved applications.
c) **Status Reports**
   i) **POCD – Open Space Plan Update**: see Old Business
   ii) **Byram Cemetery**: Savageau stated that she is waiting for final report from Historical Perspectives, Inc.

d) **Other**: Savageau reported that revised copies of the draft report for Important Bird Area at Greenwich Point were distributed for members review and comments. The plan will be further discussed at the next meeting. She emphasized that the provided recommendations for the site management are advisory and they do not have to be implemented.

6) **Committee/Liaison Reports**

a) **Parks and Recreation Board**: no report

b) **GRAB (Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board)**: Dickinson reported on the following:
   At the December 11, 2014 meeting the Board discussed the lack of funding for Holly Hill Master Plan. Only gradual improvement can be made, such as an installation of a green roof on the scale house. A mattress recycling program is being considered. The mattresses will be broken down and each component will be recycled separately. January 22, 2015 meeting focused on recycling. Over 50% of the material received at the site is recycled. City Carting issued a letter ranking the material as the cleanest in the region. Holly Hill explores additional intake of leaves and food composting. Recycling in elementary has been accomplished. All bins in cafeterias were labeled with recycling or trash. Posters were placed on the walls guiding recycling efforts. Eastern Middle School has recycling program implemented and the next step is to train students in Central and Western Middle Schools.
   **Paper Shredding is set for May 2nd** at Island Beach parking lot.
   **Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on May 9th** also at the Island Beach Parking lot.

c) **Education/Outreach**: Savageau reported that Moch is coordinating Earth Day which will focus on the International Year of the Soil. This year will be held April 26 at the Garden Education Center.

d) **Energy Committee**: Savageau reported that she attended an evaluation for the Solarize program.

e) **Harbor Management Commission**: no report

7) **New Business**: none
8) **Old Business**

a) **Proposed 2015 Open Space Plan – Recommendation for adaptation as amendment to 2009 POCD**

RTM Land Use Chairman Peter Berg attended and provided comments on the plan. He advised that RTM would be looking at reporting mechanism for plan implementation. Commission members had a long discussion including Franco via teleconference. It was decided that the progress on the implementation of the Open Space plan will be included in the Annual Report and that tasks undertaken for each year will be described in annual operation plan.

A motion was made by Dickinson and seconded by Brower to adopt the Open Space Plan with the addition of the following paragraph: *“The Conservation Commission is the lead agency on open space for the Town and will coordinate with other town departments and private partners on the implementation of the 2015 Open Space Plan. As part of this effort, the Commission will include tasks from this OSP in its annual Operational Plan as part of its required submission during the budget process. It will also specifically provide an update of progress related to these tasks in both the Annual Report and the Operational Plan each year.”*

The motion carried unanimously.

9) **Other/Announcements:** were not discussed

10) **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch