



*Patricia Sesto  
Director*

# Town of Greenwich Conservation Commission

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

Conservation Commission Meeting  
via a Zoom virtual meeting.  
March 3, 2022

## Minutes

Members Present: William Rutherford, Eric Brower, Nancy S. Dickinson, Lisette Henrey and Karen DeWahl.

Staff Present: Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs; Sarah Coccaro, Conservation Resource Manager; and Aleksandra Moch, Environmental Analyst

Also in Attendance: Andrew White, PE, Tighe and Bond, LLC; Sean Ragan, Tighe and Bond, LLC; and Urling Searle

- 1) Call to Order  
Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by Rutherford
- 2) Seating of Alternates: DeWahl was seated for Silberberg
- 3) Review and approve minutes of February 3, 2022 meeting  
Motion was made by Dickinson and seconded by Henrey to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Review of Correspondence – Sesto reported correspondence sent by the Town of Newtown asking for support of their effort in restricting plantings on public land to native species.
- 5) Chairman's Report – Rutherford was please to seeing Searle attending the meeting. He took the opportunity to thank her again for all her past efforts as a CC member and presented her a book as a token of appreciation. The book was signed by all the CC members.

**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
March 6, 2022**

6) Referral Applications

- a) 1141 King Street, 1141 King Street LLC, Conservation Cluster Development, Tom Heagney, Agent

White and Regan reviewed the site plan revisions.

White stated the first 200 feet of the driveway entrance was widened to match the neighboring driveways per DPW requirements. The size of cul-de-sac was reduced to 40' radius, which is the necessary minimum for fire, moving, and other trucks to make a turn. The trees at the site were assessed by Allan Fenner, Certified Arborist. Two additional trees will be removed, but replaced. Arborist's recommendations were included into the IWWA permit conditions.

The arborist's report also provided guidance on how to preserve the elm tree growing next to the proposed Unit #3. This includes the use of an air spade.

The CC members expressed support for the set aside of 60.75% open space area. Staff will provide the final comments to P&Z which will reflect the discussed items.

- b) 602 Indian Field Road, Mead Point LLC, Site Development, Tom Heagney, Agent:

Discussion was postponed until new information is submitted

7) Committee and Liaison Reports was taken out of order

- a) Open Space Committee:

Sesto stated the draft of the Open Space Plan was completed and was forwarded to the CC members via email. Searle and Sesto represented the committee. Sesto reported the on the process of determining parcels to be included. The definition of open space was simplified as compared to 2015. The initiative to have easements filed on Town-owned properties was also eliminated. The Town owns over 13,000 acres of open space over the water of Long Island Sound. This area was noted but not calculated into the overall open space area to maintain consistency with regional and statewide calculations.

Searle was very thankful for Sesto's leading and guiding the committee, also for providing the tools to protect the land. She stated the report was very readable.

Sesto emphasized the Town has to figure out how they will acquire new land in the future. She pointed out that over the period of time of drafting this report there were several targeted parcels that are on tap for development.

**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
March 6, 2022**

Brower supported eliminating the goal of protecting 21% of Greenwich's land as open space.

Sesto recognized Dan Clark, Land Use Technician with P&Z for his work on maps. Final layout will be turned over to a graphic designer.

Sesto shared her target of submitting the plan to get on the June Call for the RTM. This will set up a discussion of the document for September. To maintain this schedule the deadline for comments was set for March 14<sup>th</sup>. The plan will be discussed at the April meeting.

- 8) Fisheries/Wildlife: staff provided written report to the members on the following topic:
  - a) Fish Ladder – Coccaro
    - (1) Mianus Fish Ladder Volunteer Workshop via Zoom February 23, 2022
    - (2) Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited fishway open house event – Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> @ 11am: Rutherford asked about the open house event and who will attend. Coccaro responded the open house has been arranged exclusively for the Chapter members and their families.
    - (3) World Fish Migration Day open house event – Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>
  
- 9) Ongoing projects: staff provided written report to the members on the following topics:
  - a) Pollinator Pathway – Moch
  
  - b) Friends of PPT - Coccaro
  
- 10) Education/Outreach: staff provided written report to the members on the following topics:
  - a) “Landscape practices for Healthy Yards” a series of three educational webinars for landscape professionals scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>, property owners on March 9<sup>th</sup> and in Spanish on March 16<sup>th</sup> organized by CC and PP with GLT and Quiet Yards Greenwich, hosted by the Cos Cob Library.

Moch reported, 48 landscape professionals attended the first meeting. She thanked Quiet Yards Greenwich (QYG), GBC, panelists, the moderator, and Jenny Larking for all their help with organizing the event.

De Wahl made several phone calls and spoke with landscapers seeking their opinion on electric leaf blowers. QYG had developed green guidance for land management.

**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
March 6, 2022**

Brower voiced his concern about going 100% electric because this power source may have a huge carbon footprint if it is not generated by renewable energy sources. Brower was also concerned about the focus on blowers, even electric blowers, that does not address the issues of the loss of decomposing grass and vegetation, destruction of beneficial insects and creation of air born particles, pesticides and allergens related to their operation.

Brower was advised and encouraged that Quiet Yards Greenwich has, as part of its mission statement, education outreach for proper care and maintenance of yards to address these other environmental impacts.

Henrey stated QYG is using the noise issue since is less controversial and resonates with a wider audience.

- b) Vernal Pool public program - Coccaro
- c) Earth Month – Coccaro
- d) Greenwich Food System Forum – Coccaro

11) Committee and Liaison Reports

- a) Sustainability Committee
  - Transportation and Air Quality subcommittee: a written report was forwarded to the CC members by Moch.
- c) GRAB: Dickinson recommended visiting the Waste Free Greenwich Website to check on the most recent initiatives
- d) Parks and Rec Board: a written report was provided to the CC members by Baker
- e) Harbor Management Commission: a written report was provided to the CC members by Baker
- f) Leaf Blower Committee: DeWahl requested permission of the CC logo to be posted on the QYG website. After a short discussion the consensus was to allow the logo to be posted.

12) Old Business

- a) Coastal Resiliency Report: Sesto stated she is going to attend an RTM meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> to ask for funding the additional expenses.

13) New Business: None

14) Adjourn: motion was made by Dickinson and seconded by Brower to end the meeting at 8:33pm.

Next meeting is April 7, 2022

**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
March 6, 2022**