Conservation Commission Meeting  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
April 2, 2015

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William C. Rutherford, Christopher Franco, Sue Baker, Urling Searle, Nancy Chapin, and Theodore H. Walworth III

Staff present: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

Audience Present: n/a

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Rutherford.

1) Seating of Alternates: Walworth was seated for Brower, Chapin was seated for Henrey and Searle was seated for Silberberg.

2) Review and approval of minutes for the February 5, 2015 and March 9, 2015 meetings: a motion was made by Walworth and seconded by Searle to approve February meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Henrey made a motion seconded by Searle to approve March meeting minutes at presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Review of Correspondence: No correspondence

4) Chairman’s Report: Rutherford announced that the Selectmen's Nominations Advisory Committee (SNAC) will be hosting a meeting for the board/commission members on April 18, 2015 at 5pm. He encouraged all commission members to attend.

5) Staff Report:

a) Administrative
   i) Budget 2015-16: Savageau reported that the process of budget approval is moving forward with no changes to the Conservation Commission budget so far.
   ii) Staffing: Savageau stated that Matthew Gocłowski, Conservation Resource Manager I, resigned to take a full time position. Discuss ensued about the challenges of the part-time position and constant turnover of staff.

b) Emergency Operations/Climate Change Adaptations
   i) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: Savageau stated that several property owners have withdrawn their application due to length of process. The review process has
been taking a long time and most of the home owners could not afford to wait. Several applications were approved and there is still hope for more to be funded.

ii) **Ecosystem Services Restoration Grant**: no new information

iii) **Community Resiliency Planning**

1) **Hazard Mitigation Plan – Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WCCOG)**: Savageau attended a meeting with WCCOG last week along with other town staff. WCCOG Hazard Mitigation Plan was drafted and forwarded to the state. Greenwich Hazard Mitigation Plan will expire in 2016 so there is an ample time to prepare a new one.

2) **Coastal Storm Awareness Program (CSAP)** - Savageau stated that UCONN contacted her regarding CSAP, which is being implemented in three states: New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Cornell is conducting focus groups aimed at how to communicate with residents during storm events. Savageau will coordinate this with Cornell for Greenwich.

c) **Wildlife/Fisheries Habitat**

i) **Greenwich Point Habitat Assessment and Restoration**

1) **Parks and Recreation cooperative project**: Savageau stated that the main focus is on invasive species. Conservation Commission’s Staff is working on a survey of invasive species, which will allow preparation of a more detailed management plan for affected areas. Due to the sea level rising, there may be a need to relocate some of the trails which are flooded during the high tide.

2) **Greenwich Point Important Bird Area**: Savageau stated that the current draft is fine with her, but encouraged Conservation Commission members to review and provide their comments.

3) General discussion ensure about use of millings on town parks. Savageau will facilitate discussion with staff on this topic.

ii) **Vernal pool training**: Savageau indicated she had hoped to have training this year but the weather was not cooperating and now into other programs. Will work on program for next year.

iii) **Fishway – Open House April 11 and May 9**: Savageau indicated everything was set for first open house. Run is behind schedule and she is hoping for fish for the open house.

iv) **Egg Oiling**: Savageau stated that considering the weather, the week of April 20 should be the target for egg oiling.

v) **Horseshoe Crab Count**: Savageau stated that the survey will be initiated in May and June.

d) **Status Reports**

i) **POCD**: was not discussed

ii) **Open Space Plan**: Savageau stated that the plan was discussed at the Planning and Zoning meeting on March 25th. She reviewed all the comments and concerns stated at that meeting and addressed them. On April 6th the plan will be presented to the RTM – Land Use Committee and go to the full RTM on April 13th. Savageau encouraged commission members to attend both meetings and show their support for the plan.
iii) **Byram Cemetery**: Savageau stated that the report had been completed and forwarded to the commission members for their review.

iv) **Other**: Savageau reported that P&Z has received a proposal for a subdivision which requires Conservation Commission’s review. A walk will be scheduled for the morning of April 25th.

### 6) Committee/Liaison Reports

a) **Parks and Recreation Board**: Chapin stated that the highlight of this meeting was a presentation of the Open Space plan given by Savageau. Cos Cob Park has been opened for public. BET added a special fund to the budget for the study of artificial fields.

b) **GRAB (Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board)**: Dickinson reported no meeting was held.

c) **Education/Outreach**: Moch summarized the Earth Day Month event planned for April 26th at the Garden Education Center. Savageau stated that Parkway School will host an environmental event on the Earth Day (April 22). Conservation Commission staff will be providing several educational activities there. The calendar of environmental events for April covering all the Earth Day Month events has been posted on the Town’s website.

d) **Energy Committee**: was not discussed

e) **Harbor Management Commission**: Baker stated that there is an ongoing discussion on the draft of the new Harbor Management Plan. Savageau indicated that Conservation needs to remain engaged in the process as the new plan moves forward. Baker is coordinating a discussion on protecting the natural areas with Scott Johnson, P&R board member, and Roger Bowgen, Shellfish Commission Chairman.

7) New Business: was not discussed

8) Old Business: was not discussed

9) Executive Session
   a) Land Acquisition: none held

10) Other/Announcements:

   Savageau announced that in March 2015, the Greenwich Historical Society formed the Greenwich Preservation Network by inviting a cross-section of the town’s leadership of public and private organizations and businesses to participate. Conservation was asked to participate.

   Dickinson reminded about paper shredding event scheduled for May 2nd.

11) Adjournment - A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Franco to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Submitted by,
Aleksandra Moch