

**Conservation Commission Meeting  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
April 6, 2017**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

**Members present:** Sue Baker, Nancy Dickinson, Lisette Henrey and Theodore H. Walworth III

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

**Audience Present:** Dr. Elizabeth Burleson, Gary Masouredis, Jay Lauden, Jane Kochersperger, Marija Mikolajczak, William Nickerson, Sean Charles, Nicol Chasen, James Webster, Neil Shapiro.

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

**Meeting called to order** at 7:06 p.m. by Baker

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** Walworth was seated for Rutherford.
- 2) **Review and approval of minutes** for March 2, 2017 regular meeting: A motion was made by Walworth and seconded by Dickinson to approve the minutes as presented.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence:** Savageau distributed out a copy of The Habitat newsletter and CT Wildlife magazine.
- 4) **Chairman's Report:** no report
- 5) **Staff Report**
  - a) **Administration**
    - i) **Staffing/Office reconfiguration:** Savageau reported that Sarah Nahabedian was hired to fill the vacant position of Conservation Resource Manager I. She is scheduled to start on April 10, 2017. The Commission looks forward to working with her.
    - ii) **Budget and Planning:** Savageau stated that the budget would be presented to the full RTM on May 8th. Before it reaches the full RTM it would be heard and reviewed by the Land Use RTM committee on May 1st at 8 p.m. Savageau does not expect any changes but she encouraged commission members to attend.
  - b) **Water supply**
    - i) **Update on drought conditions:** Savageau reported that even with the extensive rainfall over the last several days, the area is still in a drought. Conditions are improving but precipitation is still down about 12" over the past 365 days. She emphasized the need for institutionalizing water conservation, not just during a drought. At this time, the existing water restrictions ban all outdoor irrigation but allow for power washing, pool filling, etc. This restriction could be lifted as early as the beginning of May and replaced by a 2-day per week watering restriction. Nickerson asked who would make decision on two times a week watering. Savageau stated that this decision, if made, would be approved by the Board of Selectmen.
    - ii) **Aquarion's Water Conservation Task Force:** Savageau stated that the company designed a flyer about irrigation ban. She is in the process of coordinating a meeting with a meeting with UConn to discuss smart landscaping initiatives.

- iii) **CT State Water Plan:** Savageau has been attending the meetings. The work on this plan is moving forward.

Items 5c-5f on the agenda were not discussed.

A motion was made by Henrey and seconded by Dickinson to immediately take up the Fracking Waste Ordinance which is on the agenda under New Business. Motion carried. Baker opened up discussion Fracking Waste.

8) **New Business** (7:36pm) (taken out of order per motion)

- a) **Fracking Waste Ordinance:** Mikolajczak introduced the item and ordinance they are looking to bring before the RTM. The ordinance proposes to ban fracking waste in Town. She presented the reasons for the ordinance should be adopted by the Town. She pointed out that a similar ordinance has been passed by other municipalities. The need for such ordinance is even more needed now because the existing state moratorium expires on July 1st. Savageau stated that House Bill No. 6329, An Act Concerning Hydraulic Fracturing Waste in Connecticut has passed out of the Environment Committee and needs to be called to the floor for a vote. This bill which would cover all the fracking concerns in state needs public support. Mikolajczk responded that adopting the ordinance in Greenwich would show the support. Savageau had questions about the definition of fracking waste provided in this proposal as it appears to cover more than fracking waste. She recommended that this be carefully reviewed and that the group have answers to this for the RTM. Dr. Burlison explained how the fracking process works. Loudon stated that the language is standard and it has been successfully used in several other towns. Savageau informed the Commission that they could support the ordinance and take this on as a project, or they could support the concept of banning waste but not take the lead. Loudon stated that their group was looking to bring to the RTM and was not necessarily asking the Commission to take the lead on this. After more discussion the following actions were taken by the Commission:
  - i) By consensus the Commission determined to support the general concept of banning fracking waste in Greenwich but at this time, would not take the lead on the ordinance.
  - ii) Dickinson made a motion to send a letter to the State supporting HB 6329 banning fracking waste in CT and asking that it be brought to the floor for a vote. Motion was seconded by Walworth and carried unanimously.

6) **Committee/Liaison Reports**

- a) **Parks and Recreation Board:** Baker reported that the Request for Proposal for the Master Plan for Greenwich Point was posted and received responses. Phase one would cover management plan for all the different environments and use areas in the park. New artificial turf has been installed at Cardinal Stadium while three major fields at Hamilton School and New Lebanon are on hold. Western Middle School would need further soil testing. The Board has received a landslide of dog complaints. The complaints were not limited to Greenwich Point. The main problems were associated with professional dog walkers.
- b) **GRAB** (Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board): there was no meeting. The annual paper shredding is scheduled for April 22nd.
- c) **Education/Outreach**
  - i) Earth Day Month: Savageau and Moch reviewed schedule
    - (1) Proclamation – April 2 at 1:30 pm – Innis Arden Cottage, Greenwich Point

- (2) Earth Day Event and Light Bulb Swap – April 22 – 10-2pm: Savageau stated that Searle was helping to coordinate this event with Moch providing a display about soil and compost. In addition, the Tree Conservancy and other organizations would be there to promote their programs.
- (3) National Mayer’s Challenge on Water Conservation - April 1-30: Savageau encourage all the commission members to participate and spread the word.
- (4) Calendar of events: is online
- (5) School events: Savageau reported that the staff will run earth events at Riverside School and Central Middle School.
- ii) **Leaf Recycling Program/Safe Lawns:** was not discussed
- iii) **Water Supply Protection Education:** was not discussed
- iv) **Experience the Sound:** was not discussed
- d) **Harbor Management Commission:** Baker reported that one of the staff members from the Law Department attended the meeting to help the commission to address some of the CT DEEP comments and concerns.
- e) **Cemetery Committee:** Savageau reported that there is a new Bill No. 7250 spearheaded by Mike Bocchino, CT State Representative, which addresses desecration of abandoned cemeteries.
- f) **Energy Committee:** was not discussed

**7) Old Business:**

- a) POCD : nothing new
- b) **Open Space Plan:** Savageau stated that Katie DeLuca had reported to her that RTM members were confused by the OSP on the Commission agenda. For the record, she stated that the OSP is completed and that this remains on the Conservation Commission’s agenda for implementation purposes.
- c) **500 and 0 Lake Avenue** – status update: Savageau reported that the proposal was defeated at the Planning and Zoning meeting. The applicant has a right to file an appeal with the Zoning Board of Appeals which is expected. She will continue to monitor.

**9) Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch  
Environmental Analyst