



**Town of
Greenwich
Conservation Commission**

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

*Patricia Sesto
Director of
Environmental Affairs*

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Via a Zoom virtual meeting
April 7, 2022**

Minutes

Members Present: William Rutherford, Eric Brower, Gary Silberberg, Leslie Petrick, Sue Baker, Karen DeWahl, Nancy Dickinson

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

- 1) Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Rutherford
- 2) Seating of Alternates: DeWahl was seated for Silberberg, Petrick was seated for Henrey.
- 3) Review and approve minutes of March 3, 2022 meeting
Motion was made by Baker and seconded by DeWahl to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passes unanimously.
- 4) Review of Correspondence
No correspondence.
- 5) Chairman's Report
No report.
- 6) Referral Applications
 - a) 602 Indian Field Road, Mead Point LLC, Site Development, Update

Sesto updated the Commission that the bridge on the western edge of the property was not permitted by CT DEEP and was found to impede public access. DEEP is requiring the Applicant to install signage that indicates public usage. DEEP acknowledged the bridge's existence in 2013 when a permit for the dock was submitted. Moch's report from Conservation was submitted.

Conservation Commission Meeting Agenda
April 7, 2022

- 7) Conference/ Program Reminders: staff provided a written report to the members with the following reminders:
- a) Greenwich Food System Forum co-hosted by the Conservation Commission and The Foodshed Network - <https://thefoodshednetwork.org/greenwich-food-system-forum>
 - (1) April 6 - “The Industrial Food System: Equity, Regionalization, Regeneration” via zoom at 7pm
 - (2) May 4 – “Cultivating Connecticut Grown: By Land”
 - (3) June 1 – “Cultivating Connecticut Grown: By Sea”
 - b) “Springtime Nature Walk and Volunteer Day” – Friends of Pomerance, Pinetum & Tuchman at Pomerance Park 10am-12pm -
<https://www.greenwichct.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=3902&month=4&year=2022&day=9&calType=0>
 - c) “Before Buying an Electric Car” webinar April 14 @ 7pm co-hosted by Cos Cob Library and Conservation Commission - <https://greenwichlibrary.libcal.com/event/9046920>
 - d) Pollinator Pathway mural ribbon cutting ceremony April 27 @ 11am at the mural
 - e) “Swimming Upstream: the story of river herring and American eels in Greenwich” – in-person lecture at Cos Cob Library May 2, 2022 @ 6pm presented by Sarah Coccaro
 - f) Pollinator Pathway webinar “Ecological Landscaping” via zoom – May 12 @ 7pm
 - g) Electric Car Expo, E-bikes and E-landscaping event at the Cos Cob train station May 21 11am-3pm
 - h) World Fish Migration Day Mianus River Fish Ladder open house – May 21 time TBD
 - i) Please review the [Earth Month calendar](#) to see many more community and town-sponsored events in April, May and June.
- 8) Fisheries/ Wildlife: staff provided a written report to the members of the following topics:
- a) Fish Ladder – Coccaro
 - (1) Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited fishway open house event – Saturday, March 19th
 - (2) “Swimming Upstream: the story of river herring and American eels in Greenwich” – in-person lecture at Cos Cob Library May 2nd, 2022 @ 6pm
 - (3) World Fish Migration Day open house event – Saturday, May 21st

Henry joined the meeting at 7:20pm.

- 9) Ongoing projects: staff provided a written report to the members on the following topics:
- a) Pollinator Pathway – Moch
 - b) Friends of PPT – Coccaro

The Town complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity, affirmative action, and providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. If you require an accommodation to participate, please contact the Commissioner of Human Services at 203-622-3800 or demetria.nelson@greenwichct.org as soon as possible in advance of the event.

**Conservation Commission Meeting Agenda
April 7, 2022**

10) Education/Outreach: staff provided a written report to the members of the following topics:

- a) “Landscape practices for Healthy Yards” a series of three educational webinars for landscape professionals – Moch
- b) Vernal Pool public program – Coccaro
- c) Earth Month – Coccaro
- d) Greenwich Food System Forum – Coccaro

11) Committee and Liaison Reports

- a) Sustainability Committee – Sesto
Sesto reported that the annual State of Sustainability Report will be submitted to the Board of Selectman on April 22nd. Sector activities are ongoing.

Transportation and Air Quality subcommittee: a written report was forwarded to the members by Moch.

- b) GRAB – Dickinson/Moch
Dickinson updated the Commission members on events hosted by Waste Free Greenwich: compost give-back day, Live Like Luke beach cleanup, and ReThink Waste Fair. More details on the Waste Free Greenwich website. Commission members discussed cork and metal bottle cap recycling. Dickinson will follow up with an email on how to properly recycle or dispose of each.
- c) Parks and Rec Board – Baker
Baker reported on a new member voted in and updates to Western Middle School, Hamilton Ice Rink, and pickleball.
- d) Harbor Management Commission – Baker
Baker reported that mooring permits are incoming to HMC and outstanding applications are being reviewed by herself and Coccaro. The scheduled core testing for dredging in Greenwich Cove and dredging around Grass Island are both on pause.
- e) Leaf Blower Committee – DeWahl
The Committee has been renamed to “Quiet Yards Greenwich”. DeWahl encouraged members to visit the new website: <https://www.quietyardsgreenwich.com/>

12) Old Business

- a) Open Space Plan – Final comments and request for approval
Sesto looked for the Commission to give full support of the Plan to send it to the graphic designer. Brower provided comments during the meeting and would email Sesto with specific corrections and comments. Other Commissioners had comments, which Sesto agreed to incorporate. Sesto will incorporate all comments and redistribute to the Commissioners for approval.

The Town complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity, affirmative action, and providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. If you require an accommodation to participate, please contact the Commissioner of Human Services at 203-622-3800 or demetria.nelson@greenwichct.org as soon as possible in advance of the event.

**Conservation Commission Meeting Agenda
April 7, 2022**

- b) Coastal Resiliency Report – comments and plan for approval
Sesto explained there are missing pieces to what was previously distributed to the members, including the Adaptations Report and Story Map, which are still with the consultants. Sesto asked for Commission comments within one week. Sesto will distribute the Adaptations Report when she receives it.

- c) Flood Markers
Brower requested Commission members assist with helping to obtain high water marker posts for the plaques to attach to. The signs are already made, but the height of the high-water marker posts needs to be higher than the eaves of the roof, which is creating a design and financial challenge due to lack of available materials.

13) New Business

- a) Sesto reported that the Commission didn't get the funding for any of the capitol requests.
- b) Silberberg reported on a mylar balloon that caught fire this past week after hitting a telephone wire. He is working on a local and state-wide mylar balloon ban.

14) Adjourn: motion made by Baker and seconded by Brower to end the meeting at 9:23pm.

Next meeting is May 5, 2022