

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
April 12, 2016**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Eric Brower, Sue Baker, Gary Silberberg, Lisette Henrey, Nancy Dickinson, and Ted Walworth.

Staff present: Denise Savageau

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Rutherford.

1. **Seating of Alternates:** Ted Walworth seated for Chris Franco
2. **Review and approval of minutes** for the March 3, 2016 regular meeting: A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Silberberg to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
3. **Review of Correspondence**
 - a. Savageau distributed copies of “CT Wildlife” – Jan/Feb2 2016
4. **Chairman’s Report:** no report
5. **Staff Report**
 - a. **Emergency Operations/Climate Change Adaptations**
 - i. **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program:** Savageau reported work continuing.
 - ii. **Community Resiliency Planning** – grant opportunity: Savageau reported that staff continues is working with the First Selectman’s office to determine what types of funding opportunities might fit the projects we have.
 - b. **Coastal Resources**
 - i. **Shellfish Commission with University of Connecticut (UCONN) and National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA):** Savageau indicated that that are working on a cooperative agreement/MOU. She will be meeting with Roger Bowgen to finalize.
 - ii. **Long Island Sound Watershed Planning:** Savageau reported on the LISS-CAC meeting that she attended. It is a good fit for the Commission to be involved and she is receiving lots of good information.
 - iii. **Greenwich Point IBA Report:** Savageau stated that she is working with Audubon on some minor corrections that have been agreed to. Once complete she will get the report to members.

c. Habitat Management

- i. **Mianus River Fishway – Open House** – rescheduled for April 23, 10 am – 12 pm and May 21, 2pm - 4pm. Fish are moving up and appears run will be better than last year.
- ii. **Canada Geese Program:** Savagau reported that Ryan is coordinating the annual egg oiling program. Ryan will be contacting Commissioners interested in helping next week at the islands. There is a push this year to work in the area surrounding the Cos Cob library and Mill Pond. Brower is assisting Ryan with this. A letter was sent to owners asking to help locate nests. Library staff attended the training was moved to March 30th. The library will also be included in the hazing program this year.

d. Status Reports

- i. **Eversource – Application to CT Siting Council:** Savageau gave an update on proceedings. She provided detailed information on the environmental concerns associated with any transmission lines through Bruce Park. The Town does not feel that Eversource has met the burden of proof for the need for the substation upgrade at all. Hearings have concluded and final brief submitted.
- ii. **P&Z Applications:** Savageau reported that staff is busy with many land use applications for review. Some of them are very complex. She gave an update on 345 West Putnam and shared concerns about the proposed zoning change and also the need for remediation on site. A report was sent to P&Z and IWWA. Brower also shared concerns about the zone change.
- iii. **Open Space Plan:** Savageau reported that a meeting will be scheduled shortly.
- iv. **Clean Energy:** Savageau stated Ryan continues to work with state contacts on the Clean Energy Community program.
- v. **POCD - Scenic Roads:** Savageau indicated would not be a focus until after our seasonal programs were done.

6. Committee/Liaison Reports

- a. **Parks and Recreation Board:** Baker reported on the P&R Board meeting. Key items included: Byram Park Playground to be redone, new concession stand at Greenwich Park will open soon; \$40K has been allocated for study of artificial turf (AT) field at Eastern Middle School, P&R looking at alternative AT infill materials for high school.
- b. **GRAB (Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board):** Dickinson reminded folks that the Pepper Shredding Day was set for April 30 from 9:30 am to 12:15 pm at Island Beach Parking Lot. Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for May 7th.
- c. **Education/Outreach**
 - i. **Leaf Recycling:** Savageau reported that Moch is moving the program forward and working with both public and private schools.

- ii. **Earth Day Celebration – Proclamation** – due to weather – program canceled. Proclamation by the First Selectman was rescheduled to April 5 at a Bruce Museum program.
- iii. **Harbor Management Commission – Draft Harbor Management Plan:** Savageau reviewed the new document with the Commission. There are still major concerns with the overall document. The new document does include a revised section on what the Conservation Commission does, but did not address most of the comments provided including the request for detailed guidance to CT DEEP on docks. After lengthy discussion the following resolution was made by Baker and seconded by Walworth:

Conservation Commission strongly recommends that the Harbor Management Plan dated March 2016 be re-visted to address the comments provided by the Conservation staff in a memo dated November 4, 2015 and endorsed by the Commission in a resolution at its November 5, 2015 meeting. The current draft does not address any of the 6 items listed in this memo that would be required for the Conservation Commission to support the Harbor Management Plan. The Commission strongly encourages major revisions to the plan and that the Harbor Management Commission work closely with Conservation staff to develop a Harbor Management Plan that the Commission can support.

Motion carried unanimously.

- iv. **Cemetery Committee** – no report

7. **Old Business:** none

8. **New Business:**

- a. Byram Cemetery Acquisition:

The following motion was made by Baker and seconded by Silberberg:

Whereas the Byram Cemetery, Lyon Cemetery, and the Byram African-American Cemetery located at Byram Dock Street and Byram Shore Road, are ancient cemeteries and important cultural resources for the Town; and

Whereas the Town and neighbors have, from time to time over many years, provided routine maintenance of the cemeteries but need to better coordinate for the protection and maintenance of this culture resource; and

Whereas the cemeteries are part of a parcel delineated in a map entitled “ Map of the Public Dock, Cemetery, and Road at Byram Shore in the Town of Greenwich, CT” and on file in the Town of Greenwich Land Records dated July 1911 but deed research has not definitively established ownership of the cemeteries and therefore they may be considered abandoned cemeteries; and

Whereas it is the recommendation of the State Archaeologist and the Document Study entitled "Byram Cemetery and Lyon Cemetery, Byram Dock Street and Byram Shore Road, Greenwich, CT" dated November 2014 and revised thru January 2016 that the Town formally acquire ownership of the cemeteries as per state statute that allows Towns to acquire abandoned cemeteries;

Therefore the Conservation Commission recommends that the Town of Greenwich formally acquire the property known as Byram Cemetery, Lyon Cemetery and Byram African-American Cemetery as shown of the attached Topographic Site Plan for the Byram Cemetery – Lyon Burial dated July 20, 2015 for purposes of protecting and maintaining this cultural resource and that the Board of Selectman begin the MI process for land acquisition, including all requirements by the State for the Town acquiring abandoned cemeteries.

Motion was carried unanimously.

- b. Artificial Turf discussion – Savageau updated the Commission on the ongoing discussions on crumb rubber infill in AT. There are new products on the market that P&R is exploring to replace. Commission members are interested in expanding the discussion because of the impact that AT has on the Commissions goals for open space. AT is impervious cover and greatly expanding the use of AT in Town impacts open space and water quality goals. Discussion ensued with no decisions made.

9. Executive Session – Land Acquisition: none held

10. Other/ Announcements:

Baker announced that Conservation Commission members are invited to an educational sail aboard Soundwaters on Monday, April 25 from 3-5 p.m. Members should contact Sue if interested.

Silberberg indicated that a blood drive would be help at Beth Temple Sholom on May 2.

11. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch