

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
May 5, 2016**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Eric Brower, Sue Baker, Lisette Henrey and Theodore Walworth III (at 7:15 p.m.).

Staff present: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

Audience Present: n/a

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Rutherford.

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** not needed
- 2) **Review and approval of minutes** for the May 5, 2016 regular meeting: A motion was made by Brower and seconded by Baker to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence:** none
- 4) **Chairman's Report:** Rutherford stated that he and Savageau had met with the First Selectman. They discussed re-appointments, the open space plan and other issues. Rutherford indicated that Tesei would be working on the appointments once the budget season is over.

5) Staff Report

a) Administration

- i) **FY2016-2017 Budget:** Savageau stated that the budget had gone through the RTM, Land Use Committee. She gave a presentation about all the programs the Commission is currently embracing. No cuts were made. The RTM Budget Overview Committee is looking to make an across the board cut from every departmental budget. RTM budget meeting will be held on May 9 and Savageau will attend.

ii) Land Use Staffing

- (1) **Application Coordinator:** Savageau stated that Marissa Anastasio, Application Coordinator was promoted to Planner II position. The LU Directors are working with Human Resources to fill the vacancy.

b) Emergency Operations/Climate Change Adaptations

- i) **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program:** was not discussed
- ii) **Community Resiliency Planning:** was not discussed

c) Coastal Resources

- i) **Shellfish Commission with University of Connecticut (UConn) and National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA):** Savageau stated that the contract with UConn is about to be finalized.

- ii) **Long Island Sound Watershed Planning**

- (1) **Harbor Watch:** Sarah Crosby, Harbor Watch, met with Savageau and other town officials regarding the need of identifying illegal sewage discharges along the coastline in Greenwich. This program could help decrease the bacterial count in water and the number of beach closings.

- iii) **Greenwich Point IBA Report:** Savageau continues working with Audubon on the recommendations.

d) Habitat Management

- i) **Mianus River Fishway** – Savageau stated that about 11,000 fish have passed the counter this season. Still very slow.

- (1) **Open House** –May 21, 2pm - 4pm - The upcoming open house will be associated with the World Fish Migration Day, which falls on May 21st. Even though there was hardly any fish presence at the ladder, the last open house, in April, was well attended.

- ii) **Canada Geese Program:** Savageau stated that 130 eggs were oiled, mostly on the islands. This year Cos Cob Library has been added to the site aversion program.

- iii) **Horseshoe Crab Count:** Savageau stated that the program will commence in late May – beginning of June.

e) Status Reports

- i) **Eversource – Application to CT Siting Council:** Savageau stated that during the final round, the Council was very receptive to the Town's comments.

- ii) **P&Z applications:** Savageau reported that the staff has been very busy reviewing the applications and that some of them are very complex.

- iii) **Open Space Plan:** Savageau reported that the next step will be to present the plan to the Board of Selectmen.

- iv) **Clean Energy:** Savageau and Ryan met with Al Monelli and the office of the First Selectman to discuss benchmarking the Town buildings.

- v) **POCD**

- (1) Scenic Roads: was not discussed

6) Committee/Liaison Reports

- a) **Parks and Recreation Board:** Baker stated that in his report Freidag assured the Board that all the recreational facilities would be ready for the season. Siciliano reported that Parks & Recreation is working with the Department of Public Works to complete the remediation project at the fields next to New Lebanon School. The remediation at Byram

Park/pool site was completed. The Mianus River dredging project is moving forward barring the EPA closing the western and central dump sites. The middle schools fields are being considered for artificial turf installation. This proposal would be further discussed with Board of Education. The planting plan for Binney Park was moved to the implementation phase.

b) **GRAB (Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board):** Dickinson reported that paper shredding was a great success on April 30th. Four hundred eighty cars were counted at the Hazardous Waste Day at Island Beach Parking on May 7th.

c) **Education/Outreach**

i) **Leaf Recycling:** Moch stated that the compost program has been successfully implemented at Central Middle School. In this school, teachers were involved in education through a Power Point presentation prepared by the Conservation Commission staff. The program met with great engagement from the students and teachers. The buckets with cafeteria scraps are being emptied by student volunteers. Riverside and Eastern Middle School compost program is being monitored weekly.

ii) **Earth Day Month wrap-up:** Savageau stated that windy weather was responsible for cancelation of the original earth day proclamation which was moved to Bruce Museum on April 5th. This was accompanied by a presentation given by Chris Nagy, Director of Research and Land Management at Mianus River Gorge, on the ecology of the northeastern coyote. Savageau stated that all of the environmental partners were very busy hosting events throughout the month. April 22nd was celebrated at Eastern Middle School with activities prepared by the faculty and Conservation Commission staff.

iii) **Celebrate the Sound:** Savageau announced that the annual Experience the Sound event hosted by Shellfish Commission was scheduled for Sunday June 26, 2016 from 1 pm to 4 pm at Innis Arden Cottage. This year's topic is "From Streams Through Soil to Sea". The Conservation Commission Staff will be there and provide educational activities.

d) **Harbor Management Commission – Draft Harbor Management Plan:** Baker reported that Frank Mazza has resigned as Chairman of the Harbor Management Commission and Bruce Angiolillo was elected as his replacement. The draft plan was forwarded to the State and the Commission is waiting for comments. The current version addresses some of the comments made by the departments. Savageau and DeLuca will be meeting with the new chairman.

e) **Cemetery Committee:** no report

7) **Old Business:**

a) **Byram Cemetery Acquisition:** Savageau stated that the matter will be scheduled for the Board of Selectman meeting on May 12th. She will present the resolution passed by the Conservation Commission asking for the formalizing the site's ownership by the Town through the MI process.

b) **Artificial Turf:** was not discussed

8) **New Business:** none

9) **Executive Session**

a) **Land Acquisition:** none

10) **Other/ Announcements:** no announcements

11) Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch