Conservation Commission Meeting
via a Zoom virtual meeting.
June 3, 2021

Minutes

Attendance:
Members present: William Rutherford, Eric Brower, Nancy S. Dickinson, Lisette Henrey, Laura di Bonaventura, Theodore H. Walworth III.

Staff present: Patricia Sesto, Director of Environmental Affairs; Sarah Coccaro, Conservation Resource Manager; and Aleksandra Moch, Environmental Analyst

Audience Present: n/a

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

1) Call to Order
   Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm by Rutherford

2) Seating of Alternates: di Bonaventura was seated for Baker

3) Review and approve minutes of May 6, 2021: Motion was made by Dickinson and seconded by Brower to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4) Review of Correspondence: no correspondence.

5) Chairman’s Report: Rutherford confirmed the July meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held at Greenwich Point. The meeting will be held at Innis Arden Cottage and will start at 6:00pm. Sesto will contact members to get orders for sandwiches, etc. Rutherford noted the new turtle basking platforms at Binney Park installed by boy scouts are being heavily utilized by the local population of turtles, including painted, snapping, and red-eared sliders.

   Coccaro voiced her concern of three snapping turtles found dead this year. On average there is a single one found annually.

6) Conference/Program Reminders

   a) Sea Level Rise Report public meetings – June 9 and 16 @ 7 pm: Sesto encouraged the members to attend the educational webinar offered this and the following Wednesday.
7) Ongoing projects

A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the CC members on the topics below.

a) Pollinator Pathway

Sesto reported several residents took issue with the mural. She explained the Conservation Commission budget has accommodation to allow receipt of grants without going to RTM. She met with the town counsel to discuss the issue. There is no resolution at this point.

b) Flood elevation posts

Brower requested the topic to be taken off the agenda until the project is closer to completion and new information is available to report.

c) Transportation and Air Quality subcommittee of the Sustainability Committee

8) Fish and Wildlife

A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the CC members on the topics below

   a) Fishway

   b) Horseshoe crabs: Coccaro encouraged the members to sign for the upcoming monitoring on June 8, 22, and 24th

       Brower expressed his concern about the flat worm infestation. Coccaro explained it as a symbiotic relationship and not a threat.

c) Purple Martins

d) Osprey: Rutherford had asked about the osprey nests. Coccaro responded she will be visiting them once a month during the season using Shellfish Commission’s boat.

e) Canada Geese

9) Education/Outreach

   A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the CC members on the topics below

   a) Eagle Hill School horseshoe crab lecture, Coccaro – May 5, 2021

10) Committee and Liaison Reports

   A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the CC members on the two first
topics below

a) Greenscapes Committee - Coccaro

b) Friends of Pinetum, Pomerance, and Tuchman

c) Parks and Rec Board: no report was given

d) GRAB:
Dickinson reported the Old Greenwich Farmers Market will host a new food scrap collection point.

The Waste Wizard will be up and running soon.

e) Harbor Management Commission: no report was given

f) Open Space Committee:

11) Old Business:

12) New Business

A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the CC members on the topic below.

a) Long Island Sound Future Fund – grant proposal for Phragmites removal at Bruce Park

13) Adjourn
With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:41pm. The next meeting is July 1, 2021.