

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Conference Room
Greenwich Land Trust
370 Round Hill Road
June 7, 2018**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Eric Brower, Sue Baker, Urling Searle, Nancy Dickinson (arrived at 5:55 pm), Gary Silberberg, Theodore Walworth, and Skip Parker.

Staff present: Patricia Sesto, Sarah Coccaro, and Aleksandra Moch

Audience Present: Reed and Virginia Gilbert

Commission Discussion Session – 5:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Rutherford

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** Parker was seated for Henrey and Walworth was seated for Dickinson.
- 2) **Review and approval of draft minutes for May 3, 2018 monthly meeting:** A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Parker to approve minutes as corrected.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence:** no correspondence
- 4) **Chairman's Report:** Rutherford announced Town of Greenwich will receive a Sustainability Award on June 5th for the plastic bag initiative led by Bring Your Own (BYO).

Rutherford will work with the department of Parks and Recreation on restoration of the Old Greenwich train station parking area, which was disturbed by the recent site improvements conducted by the CT Department of Transportation (DOT). The area will be planted with trees and shrubs to improve aesthetics, alleviate the urban heat island effect, and make it more environmentally friendly.

Rutherford, Urling, Coccaro, and Spaman will attend an invasive species workshop offered by the CT DEEP on June 12th.

Rutherford stated June is the last month Savageau will provide her consulting service to the Town. There are only a couple of projects which need to be completed before

she leaves. The most important one is the Hazard Mitigation Grant, which was awarded by CT DEEP for elevating coastal residences. Rutherford recognized Savageau for her efforts in a smooth transition.

5) Staff Reports

- a) Consolidation progress: Sesto reported both departments have been working together on the horseshoe crab count and V-STeM program. Rutherford was pleased with these efforts.

Sesto will be the guest speaker at the upcoming Chambers of Commerce meeting on Monday, June 11th at the Greenwich Water Club. She will present the newly adopted plastic bag ordinance which will take effect on September 12, 2018.

Sesto stated BYO has a very informative website which explains the ban. The final language of the ordinance has not been officially published yet. Approximately 3,000 letters will be mailed in the upcoming week to the local businesses explaining the details. Sesto stated variances will be available for those businesses which may have stock of plastic bags lasting beyond September 12th. It is expected that the transition will be soft and instead of penalties, friendly warnings would be used for the first couple of months.

- b) Water supply: was not discussed.
- c) Fisheries/Wildlife: the reports were forwarded to the Conservation Commission members via email.
- Horseshoe crab monitoring
 - Goose management /egg oiling
 - Fishway
 - Osprey
 - V-STeM: Volunteer Stream Temperature Management Program
- d) Education/ Outreach: the reports were forwarded to the Conservation Commission members via email.
- Soil health/composting program
 - Pollinator Pathway initiatives
 - Partners for Plants – cooperation between Town of Greenwich, Greenwich Land Trust and Greenwich Audubon

6) Committee and Liaison Report

- a) Cemetery Committee: was not discussed
- b) Energy Committee: was not discussed
- Strategic Energy Plan
 - Community Energy Planning

- c) Parks and Recreation Board: Baker reported the plan for the upcoming season was discussed.
- d) Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board (GRAB): was not discussed
- e) Harbor Management Commission: Silberberg stated Macmillan, Harbormaster was interviewed by WGCH on June 7, 2018. Macabout Harbor Management Commission taking over his responsibilities of issuing mooring permits.

7) Old Business

- a) Waste Ordinance – September 17, 2018 RTM meeting: was not discussed
- b) Mylar balloon – status: was not discussed

8) New Business: Rutherford stated that due to the Independence Day, the meeting will be rescheduled from July 5th to July 12th. The meeting will be held at the Innis Arden Cottage at 6:30pm.

9) Adjournment: Motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Baker to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch
Environmental Analyst