

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Greenwich Point Park, Old Greenwich, CT
June 8, 2017**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Urling Searle, Nancy Dickinson, Gary Silberberg, Eric Brower.

Staff present: Denise Savageau, Aleksandra Moch and Sarah Nahabedian

Audience Present: David Fescien; Jonathan Stone; Jenifer Turiano, Greenwich Time

Site Walk

The site walk and meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Rutherford at the Clam Bake area parking lot. The intent of the walk was to survey the areas where invasive species management was taking place. Savageau provided an overview of work that Parks and Recreation has been doing to address the invasive species. The group proceeded to walk through the restoration area and continued along the Purple martin housing complex. The group then proceeded to the meadow area being restored by the Friends of Greenwich Point located slightly to the east along the dirt road of the Clambake area. This area exhibited the newly planted flowering meadow and several new trees. The walk continued towards the east all the way to the moon beach which is one of the lowest and narrowest areas of Greenwich Point. Savageau pointed out that this area was extremely vulnerable to coastal erosion and flooding problems which this area suffered from during the recent major storm events. The group traversed through the Holly grove and looped around towards the starting point where the walk ended. Throughout the walk, Savageau and Rutherford explained the various plant communities and the challenges of managing invasive species at Greenwich Point. Conservation works closely with P&R on vegetative management at the park. Site walk ended at 7:15 and Commission regathered at 7:24 p.m. in the Innis Arden Cottage for the Business meeting. Rutherford left the meeting at this time and Brower took over as chair for the remainder.

Business Meeting – Innis Arden Cottage

1. **Seating of Alternates:** no alternates
2. **Review and approval of minutes** for May 4, 2017 regular meeting: A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Dickinson to approve the minutes with the following correction: Under Chairman's report should state Maritime Aquarium (no Aquarion). Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Review of Correspondence:** Savageau distributed the new issue of CT Wildlife to the members.
4. **Chairman's Report:** no report
5. **Staff Report**
 - a. **Administration**
 - i. **Budget:** Savageau reported that the budget passed as presented by the First Selectman. It did not include upgrade of the part-time position.
 - b. **Water supply**
 - i. **Update on water restrictions:** Savageau reported that the reservoirs are full and the base flow in the rivers is slightly above the average expected this time of the year. Comparing to the last year in May, the reservoirs were full, but the base flow was below the average. Current restrictions are helping to conserve water and they are widely adopted by the water users. Aquarion is having periodical meetings with irrigation companies as they transition to the new restrictions.
 - ii. **Water conservation outreach/education:** Savageau stated that she gave several presentations which included the Pollinator Potluck, run by several of the garden clubs. There will be a series of workshops scheduled for the upcoming fall.
 - c. **Long Island Sound/Watershed Management**
 - i. **UConn/Greenwich initiative**
 1. **Bio-blitz - Sept 15/16:** Savageau stated that during this 24-hour survey, UCONN will team with the Conservation Commission, Shellfish Commission and other professionals from the area. The survey would include all the organisms and plant species found at Greenwich Point and in the surrounding waters. This survey would be the first done within the coastal area.
 - d. **Wildlife**
 - i. **Fishway:** Nahabedian reported that about 18,000 fish passed through the fishway this year. The count is higher than the last year, but is far from the historical high. Since the run is winding down for the year, the counter would be pulled out soon.
 - ii. **Geese Management:** Savageau stated that the egg oiling had been completed for this year. Hazing is the current method of the management, which is being actively applied at Cos Cob Library, Byram Park, Bruce Park, Binney Park, Roger Sherman Baldwin Park and Greenwich Point.
 - iii. **Horseshoe Crab Survey:** Nahabedian stated that the survey is currently ongoing.

iv. **Great Captain's Island:** was not discussed.

6. Committee and Liaison Reports

- a. **Parks and Recreation Board:** Savageau reported that Stantech was selected to prepare the Greenwich Point Master Plan. The Conservation Commission directed the staff to get involved in this planning effort.
- b. **GRAB (Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board):** no report
- c. **Education/Outreach**
 - i. **Experience the Sound – June 25th:** Savageau stated that the staff will prepare educational activities for the event. Nahabedian will prepare an interactive display about the local food web allowing participants not only to learn about local species, but also explore the relationships between them.
- d. **Harbor Management Commission:** no report
- e. **Cemetery Committee:** there was no meeting
- f. **Energy Committee**
 - i. **Substation update:** Savageau stated that the application was resubmitted. The project is going through public hearing phase. The Town has hired consultants to ensure that the project is well designed and reflects the needs of the community.
 - ii. **Community Energy Planning:** was not discussed

7. Old Business:

- a. **Waste Ordinance –status:** Savageau reported that the Ordinance Prohibiting Waste Associated with Natural Gas and Oil Extraction is scheduled to be heard by the RTM June 12. A report was submitted to the RTM land use committee
- b. **Plastic Bag Ban – status:** Savageau stated that the group moving ahead with its planning with the intent of getting on the fall agenda of the RTM.
- c. **500 Lake Avenue:** Savageau reported that the application is being reviewed by P&Z Commission and scheduled for the Zoning Board of Appeals.

8. **New Business:** none

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Dickinson to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch
Environmental Analyst