

**Conservation Commission Meeting  
Innis Arden Cottage back porch  
July 2, 2020**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

**Members present:** William C. Rutherford, Nancy S. Dickinson, Eric V. P. Brower, Gary Silberberg, Sue Baker, Laura di Bonaventura, and Theodore H. Walworth III

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

**Audience Present:** n/a

**Commission Discussion Session – 6:00 p.m.**

**1) Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:12 pm by Rutherford

**2) Seating of Alternates:** Walworth was seated for Searle.

**3) Review and approve minutes of June 4, 2020 meeting:** Motion was made by Baker and seconded by Dickinson to approve the minutes as presented.

**4) Review of Correspondence:** CT Wildlife magazine was handed out to the commission members.

**5) Chairman's Report:** no report

**6) Staff Reports**

a) Conference/Program reminders:

- Sustainable CT webinars and events - ongoing <https://sustainablect.org/resources-newsevents/upcoming-events/>

**7) Ongoing projects**

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

- a) Pollinator Pathway – North Street project

**8) Fisheries/Wildlife**

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

- a) Fishway

Coccaro stated the season was over, but the staff continues monitoring the water level in the pond as the juvenile fish is making their way down the ladder.

- b) Purple Martins
- c) Horseshoe Crabs
- d) Osprey

Sesto and Cocarro visited 20 local nests. During the tour a pair of bald eagles was spotted. Dickinson noticed an osprey nest along I-95 between exit 4 and 5.

### **9) Education/Outreach**

A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the Conservation Commission members on the topics below:

- a) Waste Reduction Program
- b) iNaturalist

### **10) New Initiatives**

A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the Conservation Commission members on the topic below:

- a) Transportation and Air Quality subcommittee

### **11) Committee and Liaison Reports**

- a) Sustainability and Enhancement Committee: no report
- b) Greenscapes Committee

Coccaro stated, the group is going for RFP for several areas of the Post Road corridor. The design of the proposed improvements will follow the established by the committee guiding principles.

- c) Parks and Rec Board: no meeting in June
- d) GRAB

Dickinson reported on compost kit sales in several locations in town. One of the sales was conducted at St. Catherine's church where recycled paper bags were collected. These bags are used by Neighbor-to-Neighbor to distribute food to needy households. Fred Camillo has been actively supporting the new waste management program by collecting food scraps and reclining in his office and bringing them to the transfer station. Dickinson encouraged all to read the opinion piece, published on July 1<sup>st</sup> in Greenwich Time, drafted by Julie DesChamps pointing out recent RTM decisions resulting in environmental injustice.

- e) Harbor Management Commission

Baker reported the new officers were elected. The navigation issues in Indian Harbor caused by the new marker arrangements was discussed. The new locations caused narrowing of the channel resulting in safety issues and coastal erosion. Three final candidates were selected for the Harbor Master position. The final pick should be announced shortly.

### **12) Old Business**

- a) Sea Level Rise Study – update

Sesto reported the public hearings were canceled due to the delayed completion of the final draft. Once the copy had arrived, it was shared with the SLR subcommittee. A meeting is scheduled to discuss the draft.

b) Aquarion Property @ Lake Ave

Sesto reported, the acquisition will be presented at the Board of Selectmen meeting on June 9, 2020 requesting an endorsement. The next step is to go to P&Z for a municipal improvement endorsement and then to the RTM meeting in September.

c) Mylar balloons: no update

**13) New Business**

Dickinson provided a summary of the scenic road effort. A section of Sound Beach Avenue, starting from Old Greenwich library, is proposed for designation as a scenic road. When heard by P&Z it was determined the length did not meet the minimum requirements.

**14) Adjourn** – next meeting is September 3, 2020

Motion was made by Brower and seconded by Walworth to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch  
Environmental Analyst