

**Conservation Commission Special Meeting  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
July 7, 2016**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

**Members present:** William Rutherford, Eric Brower, Lisette Henrey, Sue Baker, Gary Silberberg and Nancy Dickinson and Theodore Walworth.

**Staff present:** Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

**Audience Present:** Peregrine Frissell, Greenwich Time

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

**Meeting called to order** at 6:12 p.m. by Rutherford.

1. **Seating of Alternates:** na
2. **Review and approval of minutes** for the June 2, 2016 regular meeting: A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Dickinson to approve the minutes as presented.
3. **Review of Correspondence:** na
4. **Chairman’s Report:** Rutherford reported that he met with DeLuca and Savageau to discuss the recent use of the existing telephone polls for installation of cell phone communication units in Town.
5. **Staff Report**
  - a. **MI – Byram Cemetery Acquisition:**

Savageau stated that P&Z approved the Municipal Improvement. She thanked the Commission members who attended the meeting. Savageau stated that the CT General Statutes require the Town to conduct due diligence as part of the municipal acquisition of abandoned cemetery process. This includes a legal notice will be posted in the local newspaper and a public hearing. She will be meeting with the law department to go over procedures.
  - b. **Cooperative Agreement with UConn and Shellfish Commission:**

The agreement has been finalized and signed by all partners, including the Conservation Commission and Shellfish Commission for the Town. The official announcement will be made by the Shellfish Commission with UConn on July 9, 2016 at the GPC Beach Ball.

- c. **Long Island Sound – water quality report cards:**  
Savageau stated that Citizen Advisory Committee of the Long Island Sound Study had a discussion about the improving water quality in LIS and how to frame a message so that it shows progress being made but indicates that there is still much to do. Messaging is important for future funding. The report will focus on hypoxia and the differences between water sampling over the deep portion of Long Island Sound vs. near shore waters and embayments. Concern was expressed that past report cards did not make the distinction and also did not relay that the focus was on nutrients confusing the issue with beach closings which is a separate report focused on bacteria. Savageau reported that the Long Island Sound Assembly was not funded in the current budget. Henrey serves on this Assembly for the Town.
- d. **Eversource/Energy Efficiency Planning:**  
Savageau reported that the application for a new electric substation facility was denied by the Siting Council. As part of the solution to energy supply, Eversource is working with the Town on energy conservation to reduce demand. Ryan and Savageau will be meeting with Eversource on this.
- e. **Open Space Implementation:**  
Savageau stated that the committee met on July 7, 2016 to set the priorities for the plan implementation. Changes to the existing conservation zone subdivision regulations were also discussed.

## 6. Committee/Liaison Reports

- a. **Parks and Recreation Board:** Baker stated that the meeting was conducted at the Griffith E. Harris Golf Course so the initial discussion focused on the current condition of the grounds and the facility. Among other affairs, it was reported that the Youth Conservation Program works well helping Parks and Recreation in maintenance work. The opening of the North Concession at Greenwich Point was delayed due to the pending building and health inspections. With regret, Baker announced that Catherine Weisenburger has left the P&R Board and would no longer be our liaison. Savageau will followup on new liaison.
- b. **GRAB (Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board):** there was no meeting
- c. **Education/Outreach**
  - i. Moch stated that she provided an educational program about soil and gardening which was conducted jointly with Garden Education Center at Camp Gan Israel at Carmel School.
  - ii. Savageau stated that Experience the Sound was held on June 26, 2016. The Conservation Commission staff provided arts and crafts with shells and educational activities encouraging participants to learn about organisms found along the beaches of Long Island Sound. The event was well attended.
  - iii. Baker and Dickinson attended the kick-off event for the Safe Lawn initiatives on June 18, 2016 on behalf of the Commission.

- d. **Harbor Management Commission – Draft Harbor Management Plan:**  
Baker stated that a great amount of time was dedicated to mooring regulations. CT DEEP is in process of reviewing the proposed Harbor Management Plan. The Mianus River Dredge project was approved and soon will go out to bid. Gary Silberberg announced his resignation from the Harbor Management Commission.
- e. **Cemetery Committee:** The Committee will resume meeting after the Byram Cemetery acquisition is at or near completion. Focus at this time is on the acquisition. Savageau stated that Mary Hull, Greenwich Green and Clean, has a list of all the cemeteries in Town which are maintained by local volunteers.
- f. **Energy Committee:** was not discussed

## 7. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch