

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Innis Arden Cottage
July 11, 2019**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Eric Brower, Lisette Henrey, Sue Baker, Nancy Dickinson, Gary Silberberg, Theodore Walworth (6:19 pm), and Laura Di Bonaventura (at 6:50 pm).

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

Audience Present: n/a

Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm by Rutherford

1) Seating of Alternates: No alternates were present at the time of seating.

2) Review and approve of draft minutes of June 6, 2019 meeting: n/a

3) Review of Correspondence: no correspondence

4) Chairman's Report: no report

5) Staff Reports

A detailed report for the topics below was prepared by Moch/Coccaro and forwarded to the Conservation Commission members in advance. The report included:

a) Conference/Program reminders:

Moch stated Greenwich Democratic Town Committee will host "Climate Change: Is Greenwich prepared?" presentation at the Town Hall on July 25th from 7:00 pm. to 8:30 pm.

b) Fisheries/Wildlife

- Fish ladder
- Purple Martins
- Horseshoe crab tagging and monitoring
- Terrapin Tracking Project: Cocarro explained terrapins live in brackish water. The project will monitor the road kills when they cross from one water body to the next. The area covered by her will include the entrance to Greenwich Point.

She was concerned the existing seawalls may be obstacles in the terrapins' pathway.

c) Education/ Outreach:

- Pollinator Pathway initiatives: Moch added an update regarding the ongoing project at North Street. *Pollinator Pathway* volunteers and *Greenwich Youth Conservation Program*, at two different occasions, cleared Japanese knotweed from the western side of the woods and planted native plants. The area had been managed by IWWA over the last several years. This year's efforts helped finish pulling out the weeds from the rest of the area. Most of the site will stay covered with geotextile fabric to prevent the new shoots of Japanese knotweed from growing.

Sesto pointed out a new infestation of Japanese knotweed detected at the New Lebanon Schools, which started from construction fill. Fortunately, the Town has a landscape maintenance contract, which should cover its eradication. She was pleased with cooperation received from the Parks and Recreation Department regarding this issue.

- Green School Committee
- Waste Reduction Program

6) New initiatives:

- a) SLR RFP – update: Sesto stated the contract with Princeton Hydro was signed ten days ago.

7) Committee and Liaison Reports

- a) Parks and Recreation Board: Baker reported two and half million dollars had been received by the Parks and Recreation for the Byram Park pool project from the Junior League of Greenwich.
- b) Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board (GRAB): Dickinson reported the meeting was short and the discussion focused on better advertisement for recycling material.
- c) Harbor Management Commission: Baker stated mooring numbers and the rate of fee collection have reached a new high this season. Skip Parker was appointed to serve on the commission.

8) Old Business

- a) Energy Committee Report, status update: Sesto stated the Board of Selectmen voted to support the report and assigned Sandy Litvack to work on the new ordinance to create an Energy Commission.

- b) High Water Markers: Brower reported a few minor corrections were needed by the signs. The work is in progress.
- c) Mylar balloon – status: Silberberg continues to spread the word. His fellow yacht club members have been competing on the number of balloons collected from the waters of Long Island Sound.

9) New Business

Baker was concerned about street work in Old Greenwich done by DPW. A large section of a grassed road shoulder and an existing hedge were paved over to accommodate a handicap access. She questioned the usefulness of this access and the need for additional impervious surface in a setting which appears to offer no improvement to the handicap circulation. The consensus of the commissioners was, while they agree it is unfortunate the grass and hedge were lost, this project is too small to have warranted consultation with this commission in advance of the work.

Sesto reported the State passed the plastic bag ban. Starting August 1, merchants must charge 10 cents per plastic bag and may also charge for paper, at their discretion. After two years, plastic will be banned completely. The law does not affect communities, such as Greenwich, who have stricter ordinances. The a few establishments in Greenwich which are exempt from our plastic bag ordinance, such as *Bantam* and *Lobster Bin*, have to charge for a plastic bag.

10)Adjournment: Motion was made by Silberberg, and seconded by Brower, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch
Environmental Analyst