Conservation Commission Meeting
Cone Room
September 5, 2019

Minutes

Attendance:


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

Audience Present: Deja Hickcox; Pat Rogers; Nancy Watson; Dr. George Uboey, Irene Dietrich, RTM Dist.8; Linda Moshier, RTM Dist.8; Andy Chapin, RTM Dist.8; Nancy Chapin; Nancy Gay; Rick Adams; Kip Burgweger, RTM Dist.8; Jim Capalbo, RTM Dist.8

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm by Rutherford

1) Seating of Alternates: Walworth was seated for Brower.

2) Review and approve of draft minutes of July 11, 2019 meeting: Motion was made by Silberberg to accept the minutes as drafted, seconded by Walworth and carried, 4-0-0.

3) Review of Correspondence: a copy of CT Wildlife magazine was distributed.

Sue Baker joined the meeting

4) Chairman’s Report: Rutherford announced Skip Parker’s resignation and acknowledged the benefits of having had him as part of the commission.

5) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
   a) Citizens Climate Lobby presentation & request for resolution endorsement: Patricia Sesto introduced the speakers, Nancy Watson, Pat Rogers, and George Uboey.
   Nancy Watson described the mission of the Citizen’s Climate Lobby and expressed their desire to build relationships with elected officials to support a carbon fee and dividend program. Her decision to join the effort was based on a number of concerns she had related to climate change; concerns shared by the commission.

   Pat Rogers briefly touched upon the background. California was the place of origin, being initiated by business industry in 2007. Since then, Citizen Climate Lobby has grown to 450 chapters worldwide. The goal of the program is to put the solution of
controlling carbon emissions in the marketplace. The cost associated with the carbon emissions of products would be a fee collected by the government. This fee would be paid back to citizens in the form of a rebate and would offset increases in the products due to the fee. Recently a bill was introduced to the House of Representatives with huge support from democrat Jim Himes; a Greenwich native. The effort had met wide support, including 25 Nobel prize winners, Catholic and Presbyterian Churches, Congress of Mayors, and countless municipalities. City of Stamford had recently signed a resolution to endorse the carbon fee program.

Dr. George Uboegy explained how the program works, pointing out Canada as an example of successful implementation.

Discussion ensued regarding consumer incentives, logistics, confidence the fees will be rebated, and others. At the conclusion, Baker made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to sign the resolution endorsing a carbon fee as described in the Fee and Dividend Act of 2019, seconded by Silberberg, and carried unanimously.

6) Plan of Conservation and Development

Sesto presented comments provided by the staff. A meeting with P&Z and Conservation Commission on this topic is scheduled for September 9, 2019 at 1:00 pm. at the Land Use Conference Room.

7) Staff Reports

a) Conference/Program reminders

- Greenwich Point Conservancy to host “Town Hall” with candidates for First Selectmen on Monday, September 9th, 6:00-7:30pm, to discuss the Greenwich waterfront and the commissions and agencies designated to manage and protect it. Meeting on the deck of the Sue H. Baker Pavilion. In the event of rain, meeting at the Innis Arden Cottage.

- Senators Alex Bergstein and Christine Cohen hosting an Environmental Forum Tuesday, September 10th 10:00am-12:00pm at the Greenwich Historical Society.

- International Coastal Cleanup Day – Saturday, September 21, 2019, 1-4:30pm at Great Captain’s Island

- CACIWC Annual Conference – Saturday, November 23, 2019

- Sustainable CT webinars and events - ongoing https://sustainablect.org/resources-news-events/upcoming-events/

- December 1, 2019 – Conservation Commission hosting lecture at First Sunday Science Series on animal tracks.
b) **Project Updates:**

- Sesto reported on the review process of several new applications receiving elevated public attention. The list included: Old Mill Road subdivision, Millbrook Crossing, and Greenwich Country Day School athletic complex.

- Conservation Caboodle will be scheduled in the next couple of months to meet with environmental groups and check on their efforts.

c) **Fisheries/Wildlife:** Coccaro provided a written staff report on the following topics:

- Fish ladder: Coccaro stated 2020 World Fish Migration Day will coincide with showing of a movie about the history of fish migration and monitoring.

- Osprey Nation

- Purple Martins

- ECOflora/iNaturalist app

- Beach cleanup with students from Brunswick

d) **Education/Outreach** - Moch provided a written staff report on the following topics:

- Pollinator Pathway initiatives

- Waste Reduction Program

- Environmental Lecture Series – every Wednesday October through November

8) **New initiatives**

a) **Beach Leaf Disease Study:** Moch provided a written staff report

9) **Committee and Liaison Reports**

a) **Parks and Rec Board:** Baker stated the Board had a discussion on the Binney Park study and received an update on Eastern Civic Center. Statistics from the last season at Byram pool were provided.

Andy Chapin, Bill Rutherford, and Pat Sesto had a short discussion on the restoration efforts at Binney Park.

b) **GRAB:** Sesto reported on a meeting between Amy Siebert, DPW commissioner and Ben Branyan, town administrator to discuss food scraps collection program. The project is moving ahead with requests for bid.
c) **Harbor Management Commission**: Silberberg requested the HMC minutes to be posted on the town’s website to allow public access. It was determined that this is up to the HMC to do.

### 10) Old Business

a) **Sea Level Rise Study** – update: Sesto stated the kick off meeting for the study is planned for September 17th.

b) **Phragmites removal plan for Bruce Park ponds** – Moch provided a written report and Andy Chapin share the success story of *Phragmites* eradication with the use of geotextiles and herbicides in one of the Audubon sanctuaries located along the *Hudson River*.

c) **Energy Committee Report, status update** – On September 4th Sesto met with Bob Brady, Sandy Litvack, members of the Law Department. Additional work is needed on the ordinance language.

d) **Mylar balloon** – status: Silberberg reported two articles were published recently, one in the *Greenwich Time* and one in the *Washington Post*. There is a lot of momentum building up around this issue.

### 11) New Business: n/a

### 12) Executive Session – negotiations

Motion as made at 9:03 pm by Silberberg, and seconded by Henrie, to move to the executive session.

The executive session adjourned at 9:19 pm.

### 13) Adjournment: Motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Henrie to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch
Environmental Analyst