Conservation Commission Meeting  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
November 3, 2016

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: Lisette Henrey, Eric Brower, Gary Silberberg, Urling Searle and Theodore Walworth III.
Staff present: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch
Audience Present: Janice Richards, Greenwich Land Trust; Steve Conaway, Greenwich Land Trust; Chris Aldrich, Greenwich Land Trust and Mary Ellen Lemay, FCRCP Coordinator

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Brower

1. Seating of Alternates: Walworth was seated for Dickinson

2. Review and approval of minutes for October 6, 2016 regular meeting: A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Searle to approve the minutes with the following amendment: To Section 5 (b) ii Water Quality add the following at the end of the paragraph “Brower stated that such a transition, if undertaken by other than natural sea rise, is a major policy issue including significant historical, environmental and cultural considerations which need to be fully vetted publicly so that all stakeholders have an opportunity to comment.”

3. Review of Correspondence: n/a

4. Chairman’s Report: Savageau conveyed the following information for Chairman Rutherford. Commission members whose term is about to expire should file paperwork to renew their appointment. Savageau will send email with link to form. She also informed the Commission that the RTM is looking to stagger term dates for all Town boards and commissions so that all appointments don’t expire at the same time. Although Conservation is appointed solely by the First Selectman, this still may impact the Commission.

5. Staff Report

   a. Budget 2016: Savageau distributed copies of the draft of the proposed budget. This was previously sent to the Commission via email. Discussion ensued as to the request for elevating the part-time position of the Natural Resource Manager to full-time. The BET is still looking for budget neutral on salaries because of benefits, primarily health care costs. The constant turn over in this position continues to be a problem for the Commission and workload. Motion was made by Brower and seconded by Silberberg to approve the budget with the full time upgrade. The motion carried unanimously.

   b. Water supply update: Savageau reported the Town remains in a severe drought condition and under the state emergency order. This has created a major workload for staff. Everyone pitching in to review variances etc. Conservation and Health are working together on reviewing any further restrictions that may be needed if the drought continues into the winter
months.

c. **MI Byram Cemetery Acquisition**: Savageau reported that the Board of Selectmen held a Public Hearing on September 22nd. Since then the efforts have been focused on assembling all information which was gathered at and after the hearing. She will be scheduling a meeting with the law department once the workload with drought settles down.

d. **Leaf Recycling Program/Safe Lawns update**: Savageau stated that the staff has been providing free composters and coaching to the property owners. Moch is leading this effort. It is more timely than ever given the drought and water quality challenges that we are facing.

e. **Harbor Management Commission**: Savageau stated that Sue Baker and she had met with Lile Gibbons to discuss the revised document that they are now working on. This has been reduced in size. They are hoping the plan will go to the Board of Selectmen sometime in December.

f. **Home Energy Solutions Kickoff Event – October 25, 2016**: Savageau reported on the success of the event. Approximately 230 people including the First Selectman and state representatives attended the event. Over 1300 old bulbs were collected and swapped with new LED bulbs. We still have enough light bulbs to host another swap. Most likely after the holidays.

6. **New Business**

```
a. **Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2H RCP) – 7:30 pm – presentation by Mary Ellen Lemay**

Ms. Lemay gave an overview of the RCP program in Fairfield County and the new H2H initiative. The main goal of this group is to protect open space by facilitating communications and developing partnerships between all groups working on open space protection within a region. This includes working with local public and private open space protection efforts. Greenwich Land Trust members and staff attended the presentation. A good discussion and dialogue ensued. Ms. Lemay provided the Town with a map showing connectivity of open space in Greenwich and stressed the need to protect smaller links in between larger parcels and also the need to protect across political boundaries.

7. **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Walworth and seconded by Searle to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch