Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
November 7, 2019

Minutes

Attendance:


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

Audience Present: n/a

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by Rutherford

1) Seating of Alternates: n/a

2) Review and approve of draft minutes of October 3, 2019 meeting: Motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Dickinson to approve the minutes as corrected. Silberberg abstained due to his absence at the last meeting.

3) Review of Correspondence: a copy of CT Wildlife magazine was handed out to the Conservation Commission members. Sesto requested support at the upcoming Board of Education meeting (November 21st.) for Julie DesChamps’ reusable tray project at public schools. Sesto will write an official support letter to the BOE.

4) Chairman’s Report: Rutherford applauded Sesto for her great job at the Caboodle meeting.

5) Plan of Conservation and Development: Sesto stated the draft has been available online since October 24th. The only outstanding item is the map of coastal flooding due to climate change showing the current condition and the predicted changes in time. The graphics are not there, but the section was significantly strengthened. Sesto will review the tasks to make sure they are consistent with the recommendations. The next round of revisions will be associated with RTM review. Sesto was pleased with the current document.

6) Staff Reports

a) Conference/Program reminders

• Environmental Lecture Series – Wednesday, October 2 through November 20
• CACIWC Annual Conference – Saturday, November 23, 2019
- Sustainable CT webinars and events - ongoing [https://sustainablect.org/resources-news-events/upcoming-events/](https://sustainablect.org/resources-news-events/upcoming-events/)

- December 1, 2019 – Conservation Commission hosting lecture at First Sunday Science Series on animal tracks.

b) **Conservation Caboodle**: Sesto reported the event was well attended. Less groups were present, but the same number of attendees as the last time. Sarah set up a google group and provided the access to a calendar that will be on the Town’s website. Both tools will help in communication between the Town and other groups.

The main topic of the meeting discussion was the upcoming Earth Day month, which is going to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Baker suggested to focus on the history of environmental movement. di Bonaventure offered to provide a bridge between the private schools and public in joint effort. She referred to *Earth Day Network* website, pointing out the team of the climate action which comprises of several elements such as earthrise, the great global cleanup, earth challenge, foodprints for the future, and artists for the earth. Each sub-team can be interpreted as fits. Sesto requested di Bonaventure attend the upcoming Green School Committee meeting to represent the Conservation Commission efforts in preparations to the Earth Day month.

Coccaro summarized the topics and ideas discussed during the Caboodle.

Silberberg stated the National Wildlife Federation is involved in off-shore wind power projects. Henrey pointed out the need for environmental protections. Searle was concerned about the drilling through the ocean floor to accommodate the new turbines and how the disturbance may affect aquatic life.

c) **Fisheries/Wildlife**: Coccaro provided a copy of the written articles for the Neighbor Magazine.

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

- Pollinator Pathway initiatives
- Waste Reduction Program
- Green Schools

e) **New initiatives** - SCT Community Match Grant Fund Program: Moch reported funds were approved for outdoor composters at Julian Curtiss and Glenville Schools.

### 7) Committee and Liaison Reports

a) **Parks and Rec Board**: Baker was concerned about the recent flooding at Binney Park and its impact on the newly planted vegetation. The discussion on the new Eastern Civic Center continues. A new committee was formed to work on a master plan for Greenwich Point.

b) **GRAB**: Dickinson reported Board of Education will meet on November 21st to discuss the reusable trays in school cafeteria. On December 5th, the public will be allowed to participate.
The goal is to have reusable trays and dishwashers for a more sustainable and less expensive long-term practice. DPW reported a new list of recyclables will be uploaded to their website. The department will team up with the local garden clubs for the Earth Day month programs. Paint recycling is no longer available in our area. Greenwich recycles at zero cost due to low contamination of the collected material. The food scrap voluntary drop-off program at the transfer station is being discussed and the indicators are this will be going forward. Several public schools compost and locally, Curbside Compost offers curb pickup of kitchen scraps to the property owners. Greenwich may consider textile recycling, which turned out to be profitable in Stamford and it diverts tonnage from the waste stream. The ability to recycle tennis balls was discussed and efforts to get clubs to offer this service should be pursued.

c) Harbor Management Commission: Baker reported the project to construct a barge mooring near Greenwich waters was withdrawn. A request was made to CT DEEP to inform the Town directly about any activities in Stamford which can impact Greenwich shore.

The completed draft of the Long Island Sound Blue Plan has been posted at the CT DEEP website. This draft will be submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly's Environment Committee before the start of the legislative session on February 5, 2020.

Baker reported that the bathymetry of the areas in Greenwich Harbor proposed to be dredged have to be rechecked for any changes. The dredging will be funded by private and public partnership.

10) Old Business

a) Sea Level Rise Study – update: was not discussed

d) Mylar balloon – status: n/a

11) New Business: none

12) Executive Session – negotiations

Motion as made by Rutherford and seconded by Brower to move to the executive session at 8:74 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch
Environmental Analyst