

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
December 1, 2016**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Lisette Henrey, Sue Baker, Gary Silberberg, Nancy Dickinson, Theodore Walworth III and Skip Parker.

Staff present: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

Audience Present: William Kies, Land Trust, Executive Director

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Rutherford.

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** Parker was seated for Brower and Walworth was seated for Searle
- 2) **Review and approval of minutes** for November 3, 2016 regular meeting: A motion was made by Dickinson and seconded by Silberberg to approve the minutes as presented.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence:** none
- 4) **Chairman’s Report:** Rutherford welcomed Kies, the new executive director of Greenwich Land Trust. He also reminded Commissioner members about getting in reappointment nomination forms to SNAC.
- 5) **Staff Report**
 - a) **Administration**
 - i) **Staffing:** Savageau stated that since Amanda Rayan left, the position of the Conservation Resource Manager remains vacant. A search for her replacement would be initiated soon. A request to upgrade this to full time is in the budget. Savageau presented the reasons behind the need for this upgrade. The major problem with the part-time position is that it cannot sustain a long-term employee due to the lack of benefits and limited work hours. Therefore, the turnover rate is high leaving long periods of vacancies and continual training of new employees. This is especially critical for a small department with a large workload.
 - ii) **Budget and Planning:** Savageau stated that the proposed budget was submitted to the First Selectman. The First Selectman than puts presents a town-wide budget to the BET in February. The Commission will know before this if our request for a full-time staff is accepted. Once again it is a tough year but our need remains unmet.
 - b) **Water supply**
 - i) **Drought conditions:** Savageau reviewed the water supply status emphasizing that we are still in a drought. November precipitation was close to an average amount for the month at 4.5”. These rainfalls, however welcome, did not address the past deficit. The reservoirs remain only 25% full. On December 13th Aquarion will be hosting Water Conservation Workshop

from 8 am to 1 pm at Marriott Hotel in Stamford. The audience and discussion would cover the areas of New Canaan, Darien, Stamford and Greenwich. Among other presenters would be Amy Vickers, a renowned consultant on water conservation. Henrey and Baker will attend along with Savageau. Any other commission members interested in attending should let Savageau know asap via email.

- ii) **Water quality** – source water protection initiative: Savageau stated that the water supply had experience another algal bloom this year and this was exacerbated by the drought. This is a blue green algae (cyanobacteria). At this stage it is not toxic but it did result in a musty taste and smell of drinking water. She has proposed a major educational campaign that will address both on water conservation and water quality protection with a focus on best management practices for lawn and yard maintenance.
- c) **MI Byram Cemetery Acquisition:** Savageau stated that Dickinson, Brower, Wetmore and herself would meet during the upcoming month to discuss the progress.
- d) **Long Island Sound**
 - i) **Citizen Advisory Committee:** next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 8th.
 - ii) **CT Blue Plan:** Savageau reported on the public hearing on the CT Blue Plan. This plan is looking at the spatial use of Long Island Sound from competing uses and is just in the beginning phase. Savageau explained the parameters which limits the plan to the -10 ft. contour thereby excluding the intertidal zone. She has recommended that the area start at the MHW mark. The Commission agreed with this by consensus. She also reported that the potential for wind power and proper planning seemed to be a major driver for developing such a plan.
 - iii) **MS4 Storm Water Permit:** Savageau reported that the existing permit is set to expire and the Town will be applying to update with in the new guidelines set by DEEP. DPW is the lead on this coordinating the internal team that includes the 3 land use departments.
- e) **Community Resiliency**
 - i) **Living Shoreline:** Savageau stated that some type of project is still being considered but that it has taken back burner to drought work.
 - ii) **Community Rating System (CRS)** with West Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG): no updates

6) Committee/Liaison Reports

- a) **Parks and Recreation Board:** no meeting in November
- b) **GRAB (Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board):** no report
- c) **Education/Outreach**
 - i) **Leaf Recycling Program/Safe Lawns:** Moch stated that 100 composters were distributed to the private property owners in Town. Each bin receiver was coached on how to set up a compost and how to recycle and reuse organic wastes. The program was concluded with a presentation of organic waste management methods at Innis Arden Cottage on November 13th.
 - ii) **Harbor Management Commission:** Baker reported that the Harbor Management Plan is still in works. The major focus is on consolidation and reduction of the volume.

d) Energy Committee

- i) **Eversource/Energy Efficiency Planning:** Savageau stated that even though the committee did not have a chance to meet, staff has been actively working and meeting with Eversource team. In addition, benchmarking has been progressing throughout the Town owned properties. On December 2, 2016, Savageau would meet with Board of Education to ensure that benchmarking would also cover public schools.
- ii) **Green Bank – Clean Energy Rewards:** Savageau reported that the Town has received \$13,500 in rewards for working on the Solarize and C-Pace program. The amount will be used for purchasing energy efficient lightning and energy credits.

7) Old Business:

a) POCD

- (1) **Open Space Planning:** Savageau reported that a meeting will be scheduled in January/February to begin working on implementation of the plan. One of the tasks is reworking the Conservation Zone regulations.
- (2) **Greenwich Land Trust (GLT) –** Savageau reminded folks that the GLT annual meeting will take place on Dec. 7. The Commission is usually well represented.
- (3) **Regional Conservation Partnership:** Savageau indicated that she would let folks know when a meetings are schedule for either the Fairfield County RCP or H2H RCP.

8) New Business – none

9) Other/Announcements:

Silberberg announced blood drive at Temple Shalom on January 9th. Blood drive would be also conducted at the Town Hall in mid-December.

10) Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch