Conservation Commission Meeting  
December 3, 2020

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Chairman, Eric Brower, Vice Chairman, Nancy S. Dickinson, Uurling Searle, Sue Baker, Laura di Bonaventura, Gary Silberberg, and Theodore H. Walworth III.

Staff present: Patricia Sesto, Director, Sarah Coccoro, Conservation Resource Manager I and Aleksandra Moch, Environmental Analyst.

Audience Present: n/a

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

1) Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm by Rutherford.

2) Seating of Alternates: di Bonaventura was seated for Henrey.

a) Review and approve minutes of November 5, 2020: Motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Dickinson to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried 7-0-0.

3) Review of Correspondence: no new correspondence.

4) Ongoing projects
A written report was provided by staff and forwarded to the CC members on the topics below.

a) Pollinator Pathway: Moch was asked about a couple of projects listed in her report such as the Chestnut Alley and the new North Street project. Sesto stated the Chestnut Alley project brought many volunteers including the Town staff and commission/board members from P&Z, CC, Parks and Recreation. Coccoro provided the location for the North Street project and elaborated on the potential restoration of this area with native plants to create a pollinator friendly habitat.
b) **Flood elevation posts:** Brower reported he had completed elevation work with Tony D’Andrea and now is looking for poles long enough to display all the markers. The markers and descriptions of each storm event are made and ready to be mounted.

c) **Transportation and Air Quality subcommittee:** Moch stated the group is working on *Bicycle Friendly Greenwich* program promotion. Walworth suggested contacting Next Door Neighbor because they have the town-wide reach via their internet platform. Sesto stated $100,000 will be added to the capital budget for the new bicycle infrastructure plan. Half of the amount will come from the Town and the other half from grants and donations. Moch stated an EV readiness plan will be drafted for Greenwich.

d) Sustainable CT application –

5) **Chairman’s Report**  
Rutherford expressed his concern with this year reappointment schedule. Three of the commission members, including Dickinson, Silberberg, and Brower are up for reappointment. All three members were contacted, but to date no decisions have been made. Sesto spoke with First Selectman about several potential candidates having expressed an interest. These people introduced themselves to the commission and attended a meeting, but have not heard from the selectman office. The commission is seeking to fill one vacancy.

6) **Education/Outreach**  
a) **Merry, Bright and Waste Free Holidays webinar – December 1, 2020**  
Sesto stated Coccaro was one of the presenters at this webinar. She spoke about the alternative gift wrapping ideas and sustainable gifting. Dr. Gregory Kramer, Parks and Recreation demonstrated how to prepare home for holidays with naturally sourced decorations. Julie DesChamps, Waste Free Greenwich, offered tips for waste free holidays. Patricia Lee, BOBO Wrap, introduced the traditional Korean wrapping with reusable scarves. These presentations were recorded and are available at the Waste Free Greenwich website.

7) **Committee and Liaison Reports**  
a) **Greenscapes Committee:** the report was provided to the members via email.

b) **Parks and Rec Board:** Baker stated the last meeting of the year is scheduled for December 10th. The main announcement at the last meeting was Tom Greco’s retirement and Blaize Levitan taking his place. Due to sustained crowds at Greenwich Point, the beach pass requirement was extended to January. The planting done at Binney Park is under a review. Potential replanting may be needed due to loses after flooding.

c) **GRAB:** Dickinson watched “Just Eat It,” a movie and associated panel discussion hosted by Waste Free Greenwich on November 18th and 19th. There was no GRAB meeting last month, but the last update shows one ton of food scraps being consistently collected every month.
d) Harbor Management Commission: Baker stated due to COVID19 the number of applications for docks had increased significantly. Some of the docks are very long and intrusive while their use in some cases is limited to a few hours of high tide. 54 Byram Shore was given as an example. There is a concern about their impact on tidal vegetation and shellfish beds.

Sesto had a meeting regarding the Planning and Zoning referrals. The Harbor Management Commission expressed concern they were not getting applications waterfront applications for their review and comment, consistent with their regulations. P&Z will check their criteria for routing to address the issues.

8) Old Business: n/a

9) New Business
   a) Friends of Pinetum, Pomerance, and Tuchman (PPT): Coccaro reported Andy and Nancy Chapin have spearheaded the creation of a master plan for the park. On the menu is invasive species management, replanting, and park enhancement. Coccaro prepared a trail map for the park which is now displayed at the kiosk located at the park’s entrance. Silberberg expressed his interest in joining the effort. Brower pointed to the need for refurbishing some of the structures. Walworth suggested the Chapins be invited to the next meeting to discuss their plan.

10) 2021 Meeting Schedule
    A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Brower to add the 2021 meeting schedule to the agenda. The motion carried 7-0-0.
    A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Walworth to approve the proposed meeting schedule as presented. The motion carried 7-0-0.

10) Adjourn

    With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:16pm

    Next meeting is January 7, 2020

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch
Environmental Analyst