

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
February 1, 2007**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: Lisette Henrey, Sue Baker, Eric Brower, Nancy Dickinson, Eric Brower, Gary Silberberg and Giulietta Fargion

Staff: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

Audience present: none

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Brower

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** Silberberg was seated for Seblatnigg and Fargion was seated for Rutherford.
- 2) **Review and approval of draft minutes of the January 4, 2007 meeting:** A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Frangion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was carried.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence:**
 - a) Savageau handed out to the Commission members a new issue of *Connecticut Wildlife* and *The Habitat*.
 - b) Savageau stated that the 17th Annual Long Island Sound Citizens' Summit is scheduled for March 3, 2007 at the Burns Horticulture Center at the Planting Field Arboretum in Oyster Bay.
- 4) **Chairman's Report:**
 - a) 2007-08 Budget: Savageau reported that the First Selectman presented the Commissions budget intact to the BET. This will now be considered by the full BET as they prepare the budget for approval by the RTM.

5) Staff Report

- a) Subdivision/Site Plan Reviews: Savageau reported that due to the shortage of the developable land, the projects are getting more complex and expand over more challenging terrain. Site constraints create need for intensive grading, blasting and alteration of the natural drainage patterns. The Commission emphasized the importance of preservation of natural features such as rock outcrops, steep slopes, stonewalls and other structures of historical/cultural values.

Moch stated that the recent changes in calculation of FAR in respect to the grade plane have opened an opportunity to expand a livable area by burying the first floor of the dwelling. The associated fill is usually installed around the structure and retained by series of walls or spread over a large area. Installation of fill may result in the following impacts to the natural environment:

- 1) loss of native soil
- 2) create changes in natural drainage pattern
- 3) loss of vegetative cover
- 4) creates potential for erosion
- 5) low fill quality and/or contamination may impact the ground water movement and chemistry
- 6) the new soil is less valuable than the native soil in terms of plant growth; therefore, it requires more intensive fertilization and pesticide use

Brower will draft a letter to Planning and Zoning Commission to express the Commission's concerns regarding the matter.

- b) Cos Cob Power Plant - cleanup status/EPA grant: was not discussed
- c) Byram River Watershed Workshop: Savageau reported that the Flood and Erosion Control Board of Byram River decided to hire a consultant to perform an investigation of the existing flood control features and make recommendations for further studies. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2007.
- d) Community Forest Update
- 1) Ordinance Workshop: Savageau reported that Bruce Spaman, Superintendent and Tree Warden, is working on the draft ordinance. The next meeting would take place at the Town Hall on February 15, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.
 - 2) Tree Conservancy: Savageau encouraged the Commission members to attend a kick-off event that would host Henry Stern, former New York City Parks Commissioner. He will talk about his experience in tree conservancy. The group initiated fund raising campaign to replace the trees lost during the windstorm at the front of the Town Hall.
- e) Wildlife Management
- 1) Deer Management: Savageau stated that the deer exclusion was installed and a survey of existing vegetative cover would be performed to create a base data for the future monitoring.
 - 2) Geese Management: Savageau stated that the training program for egg oiling is planned for March 8 and 19, 2007. Geese Pease officials would provide the training.

- f) Habitat
 - 1) IBA plans: was not discussed
- g) Education/Outreach – GEC lecture series and workshop: Savageau stated that she is involved in two events at the Garden Education Center:
 - 1) On March 14 and 21 – Special Educator Training Session, *Plants and Me!* – Activities for K-6 Educators.
 - 2) On March 21 - *In Celebration of Spring!* with Denise Savageau - would focus on vernal pools, fish run and other spring wildlife activities in Greenwich.

6) Committee/Liaison Reports

- a) Pomerance/Tuchman Planning Committee: was not discussed
- b) Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board Liaison: Baker reported that the e-wastes, initially separated by the homeowners, are being mixed with regular trash at the Waste Station.
- c) Parks and Recreation Liaison: was not discussed
- d) Open Space Acquisition: Savageau stated that the delay in acquisition is caused by conflicting regulations applying to the utility land. The legislatures are working on resolution.

7) Old Business

- a) Plan of Conservation and Development: The Conservation Commission members discussed the Town's cultural resources. A list of Town properties would be made with designation of their cultural values.
- b) Clean Energy Resolution: Savageau indicated she would like to have a larger discussion on this at the next meeting
- c) 109 Byram Shore Road – update: Savageau stated that the applicant is working on revisions to the drainage system. The project would be heard at the next P&Z meeting.

8) 8) New Business: none

A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Dickinson to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch