

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
May 3, 2007**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Renee Seblatnigg (from 8:03 p.m.), Sue Baker (from 7:22 p.m.), Nancy Dickinson, Eric Brower, Gulietta Fargion, Gary Silberberg, Suzanne Graham.

Staff: Denise Savageau (until 7:30), Aleksandra Moch

Audience present: n/a

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Rutherford. He indicated that agenda items would be taken out of order so that Savageau could leave to attend a neighborhood meeting concerning the recent flood event.

Seating of Alternates: Fargion was seated for Henrey, Silberberg was seated for Brash, and Graham was seated for Seblatnigg (until 8:03 p.m.).

1) Staff Report

- a) Byram River Watershed Workgroup: Savageau reported that the last flood event in the Pemberwick area was very severe and caused damage to several properties. As it turned out the Flood and Erosion Control Board was already scheduled to meet the Thursday after the flood to have a presentation on the Byram River Flood Analysis Report prepared by Joseph E. Polulech, JEP Engineering Company. Savageau, Polulech and 3 members of the FECB toured the Pemberwick area before the meeting. The report states that there will continue to be flooding in this area and that a mitigation plan should be developed. There is a great need for a hydrological study and hydraulic model to provide detailed information specific to this watershed. The FECB had recommended to DPW that funding for the study be sought.

2) Old Business

- 3) Clean Energy Resolution (update): Savageau reported that the resolution proposed by the Conservation Commission would be received and discussed at the Board of

Selectmen Meeting on May 9th.

4) **New Business**

- a) The Conservation Commission members brought up Henrey's recommendation that May 12 should be proclaimed Ted Gilman's Day. Ted, while working for Audubon Greenwich with his dedication as an educator, had inspired thousands of people to appreciate the natural environment. Consensus for Henrey to draft a proclamation for the First Selectman.
- b) Savageau stated that a series of public events organized by SoundWaters is scheduled for May 21-27 in a few of shore locations in Greenwich. On May 26 there will be sail on schooner for the Conservation Commission, other non-profit organizations, environmental groups and activists. The event would express the appreciation for the environmental community for their hard work in preservation of the Town's natural resources. Savageau will send info out to members.

5) **Review and approval of draft minutes of April 5, 2007 monthly meeting:** A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Graham to accept the minutes with a few of minor corrections. The motion was carried.

6) **Chairman's Report:** Rutherford stated that the three Land Use Chairmen met to review the floor plans for the new Land Use office, which would be relocated to the space currently occupied by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

7) **Staff Report (continuation):**

- a) Subdivision/Site Plan Review: Moch stated that the office is very busy with the new load of applications.
- b) Cos Cob Power Plant: was not discussed
- c) Community Forest Update:
 - i) Ordinance Workgroup: was not discussed
 - ii) Tree Conservancy: Baker reported that the presentation by Henry Stern, former New York City Parks Commissioner, last night at the Bruce Museum was very interesting and informative. She brought some maps of Central Park that she shared with the Commission members. Silberberg reported that there are two upcoming events. On May 21, 2007, Tree Protection During Construction, and on June 9, 2007, A Tree Walk, both hosted at the Garden Education Center.
- d) Wildlife Management
 - i) RTM Wildlife ordinance: was not discussed
 - ii) Geese Management: Baker reported that the egg-oiling program is ongoing. She was concerned that some of the coastal nests were washed away during the last major storm event.
- e) Critical Habitat
 - i) IBA plans – Great Captain's Island: was not discussed

- ii) Fishway Access Walk: Rutherford stated that Brash, Aurelia and he met with the Bronx Zoo representatives to show them the fishladder.
- iii) Horseshoe Crab monitoring: Baker stated that Savageau and she met with the new ocean biologist at the Greenwich High school and SoundWater representatives to discuss the details of the monitoring program for the upcoming season.
- f) Education/Outreach
 - i) Earth Day: Baker stated that all the events in April were very successful. She was pleased with the attendance and the program's variety.
- g) Other
 - i) 2007 Legislative Session: was not discussed

8) Committee/Liaison Reports

- a) Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board Liaison: Dickinson reported that the Hazardous Waste Day is scheduled for May 12, 2007. Dickinson stated that the Town is looking for a more economical approach to recycling. After a short discussion among the Commission members, it was decided that Savageau and the designated committee should develop a cost benefit analysis to demonstrate that the recycling has an important environmental implication, which should be recognized in the overall economics.
- b) Parks and Recreation Liaison: was not discussed
- c) Open Space Acquisition: was not discussed
- d) Other: was not discussed.

Motion was made by Baker and seconded by Graham to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch