

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
September 6, 2007**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Sue Baker, Eric V.P. Brower, Nancy Dickinson, Alexander Brash, Giulietta Fargion, Suzanne Graham, and Gary Silberberg

Staff: Denise Savageau

Audience present: Jay Ross, Rudy Ridberg, Louis Fusco, Winston Robinson

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Rutherford.

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** Graham was seated for Seblatnigg, Fargion was seated for Henrey, and Silberberg was seated for Brower when he re-cused for new business.
- 2) **Review and approval of minutes of July 12, 2007 monthly meeting:** A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Dickinson to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was carried.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence:**
 - a) *CT Wildlife* July/August 2007 was distributed.
 - b) Letter from Blumenthal on water company lands in response to our letter of concern. Blumenthal supports our position on this.
 - c) Brower distributed information that Broadwater is sending to the business community
 - d) Fargion presented brochure on biofuels.
- 4) **Chairman's Report:** na

5) Staff Report:

- a) Staff and space needs: Savageau reported she has hired Brian Eltz as the new part-time conservation assistant. Brian has a Masters degree in Fisheries and will be working on the non-regulatory programs for the Commission including the Mianus Fishway.
- b) Subdivision/Site Plan Reviews – Savageau reported that the Town has hired Citiview for the new permit tracking software. This will be implemented over several months with completion targeted for May/June 2008.
- c) Invasive species – Savageau gave brief update on status of mile-a-minute weed in Greenwich.
- d) Cos Cob Power Plant – na
- e) Flood/Stormwater Management
 - 1) Byram River Workgroup – next meeting tentatively set for 9/26
 - 2) Flooding – Savageau reported that she is working with Dan Warzoha, EMOC on a flood training program and also with DPW on moving forward with a master drainage plan for the Town. Plan to start with Byram and Strickland Brook and then move to rest of town.
- f) Community Forest Update
 - 1) Ordinance workgroup – na
 - 2) Tree Conservancy –
 - (1) Program be planned for October 30 on "Reading the Forested Landscape" with Tom Wessels. This will be followed by a weekend walk with Bruce Spaman.
 - (2) Silberberg reported that are working on a giving tree program and a program with schools "Acorns to Oaks." These are in the development stage.
- g) Wildlife Management
 - 1) RTM Ordinance – will be on the September RTM agenda
 - 2) Geese Management – Savageau reported the program is moving along as planned
 - 3) Deer Management
 - (1) Savageau reported that there is now a statewide initiative to control deer which the Fairfield Municipal Deer Management Alliance supports
 - (2) Tick Testing – postponed until the fall
 - (3) Aerial Survey 2008 – this is being planned for this season but is dependent on snowfall. Kilpatrick at DEP has been contacted.
- h) Critical Habitat
 - 1) IBA's – Savageau expressed concern over lighthouse work at GCI during nesting season. Brash reinforced her concern and the need to make sure work is outside the nesting period. Baker and Robinson will bring the concerns to the Board of Parks and Recreation meeting. Meeting date for presentation of IBA plan will be scheduled for November.
- i) Education/Outreach
 - 1) Savageau discussed teacher workshop planned for Nov. 6.
- j) Other

- 1) Legislation (see correspondence with Blumenthal)
- 6) Committee/Liaison Reports
 - a) Recycling Advisory Board – Dickinson reported that the group is working on stopping the use of plastic bags, the bottle bill, getting information into the schools, and dates for upcoming events which are being posted on the website.
 - b) Parks and Recreation – Baker gave quick update of meetings
 - c) Open Space Acquisition – Brower
 - 1) Aquarion – Brower reported work on this open space acquisition
 - 2) Tuchman – Brower reported that finally the Town owns the Tuchman parcel. He thanked everyone for continuous support including numerous First Selectman and the Law Dept.
- 7) Old Business – na
- 8) New Business – Eric Brower recused himself and left the meeting
 - a) Diamond Hill/Harbor View Conservation

This was presented by Rudy Ridberg, Jay Ross, and Louis Fusco. Proposal for a 3-unit condo as a Conservation Zone. A site walk had been held by the Commission on August 25. The project proposes 3 units instead of the 4 allowed and is proposing 40% conservation land instead of 50%. Following presentation and active Q&A by Commission members, the following resolution was made by Brash and seconded by Silberberg.

The Conservation Commission recommends approval of the Conservation Zone subdivision at 525 East Putnam Ave as this subdivision provides for the conservation of open space and protection of steep slopes. This recommendation is contingent upon the following conditions being met:

- 1) That the deed clearly acknowledge that the owners want to maintain a viewshed on the south side of the property, and that in order to prevent conflicts about the conservation area maintenance in the future a landscape plan be developed for the area. This plan should be developed to require a minimum of maintenance and use native species. The plan should be reviewed by Conservation staff prior to its acceptance.
- 2) That the driveway be as narrow as possible in order to preserve space for a vegetated corridor, and designed to meet low-impact development practices.
- 3) That a Phase 1A Archaeology Study be conducted prior to any land disturbance.
- 4) That the landscape plan be reworked to maintain as many existing trees as possible including the 24” sugar maple located east of the building near the proposed Unit C Lawn Terrace.

- 5) That the building and patio areas be designed so as to ensure access to the back of the building for fire/safety needs and future maintenance without encroachment on the conservation easement.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Denise Savageau