

**Conservation Commission Meeting  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
October 4, 2007**

## **Minutes**

### **Attendance:**

**Members present:** Lisette Henrey, Sue Baker, Nancy Dickinson, Gulletta Fargion and Gary Silberberg

**Staff:** Denise Savageau, Aleksandra Moch

**Audience present:** Winston Robinson, Board of Parks and Recreation

### **Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.**

**Called to order** at 7:19 p.m. by Henrey

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** Fargion was seated for Rutherford and Silberberg was seated for Brower.
- 2) **Review and approval of draft minutes of August 25, 2007 site walk and September 6, 2007 monthly meeting:** A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Dickinson to accept August minutes with the following correction “add Cheryl Eveland to the attendance list”. The motion carried.

Motion made by Silberberg and seconded by Dickinson to accept the minutes of September 6, 2007 with the following correction on page 3, item 8 a) 1). Change the beginning of the first sentence to read “That the deed clearly acknowledge that the owners wan to maintain a southeast view from the property,.” The motion carried unanimously.

### 3) **Review of Correspondence:**

- a) A summer issue of *The Habitat* was distributed.
- b) The 30<sup>th</sup> annual CACIWC meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 10, 2007 in Wallingford, CT. Commission members interested should contact Jenny Colucci in wetlands office to register. The Endangered Land Coalition will have their booth there discussing water company lands, the legislative rat, and future ways to ensure protection of these lands.
- c) The 19<sup>th</sup> annual conference on Urban and Community Forestry in Connecticut hosted by the Connecticut Urban Forestry Council is planned for October 25,

2007 in Wallingford, CT. Savageau is planning to attend as are some members from the Tree Conservancy.

- d) Savageau encouraged all the Conservation Commission members to take an active role in the development of the new Conservation and Development Plan. On October 22, 2007 the Land Use boards will meet to discuss the plan. On November 28, 2007 a meeting will be open to the public and devoted to the environmental issues.

Silberberg expressed his appreciation for Savageau's work on the water company legislation and offered a motion that was seconded by Baker to insert a letter of appreciation from the Commission with the attached support letter from Blumenthal into her personal file. A copy of the letter will be mailed to the First Selectman as well. The motion was approved unanimously.

Savageau took the opportunity to thank Henrey for her initial request and discussion with Rutherford, which instituted the action.

**4) Chairman's Report: na**

**5) Staff Report:**

- a) Staff and space needs: no updates
- b) Subdivision/Site Plan Review: The office is very busy. There are several large projects that are in the process of being submitted.
- c) Invasive Species – Gimbel Sanctuary – update: Savageau reported that Channel 12 was doing a piece on the issue. She is working with Audubon on plan to remove the weed and bring their WHIP grant and mile-a-minute weed into compliance.
- d) Cos Cob Power Plant: no updates
- e) Flood/Stormwater Management - Byram River Watershed:
  - i) Army Corp. Project: The Army Corps of Engineers expanded their study from the New York state line to the section of the Byram River watershed located along the Connecticut border. The representatives met with the property owners of the Pemberwick area that was heavily affected during the last flood.
  - ii) 319 Project: The project is related to the section 319 of the Clean Water Act that discusses non-point pollution. This federally founded program may be used for the Byram River watershed study.
- f) Urban Forestry:
  - i) Ordinance Workgroup: no updates
  - ii) Tree Conservancy: A public program was created which would allow financial contribution of each member to support the Town greening.

- g) Wildlife Management
  - i) RTM Wildlife ordinance: The proposed changes to the Town ordinance regarding wildlife control over the municipal properties were approved by the RTM in September.
  - ii) Geese Management: There is a growing interest of coastal towns in joining the program. Savageau will help with some training in the spring.
  - iii) Deer Management: no updates
- h) Critical Habitat
  - i) IBA plans – Great Captain’s Island: Savageau indicated that she had contacted Parks and Rec and DPW about the lighthouse restoration. She is coordinating a meeting with them and DEP. Audubon is finishing the IBA for GCI and is expected to be ready sometime in November.
  - ii) Fishway Access Walk: The work on the site renovation progresses, and the external work on the building are close to completion. Eltz and Savageau met with DEP to evaluate the existing structure of the fishway and discuss the potential improvements before the observation camera is installed. The camera would provide more detailed information on quality, quantity and the direction of the fish movements.
- i) Education/Outreach:
  - i) Teacher workshop at GEC – Nov 6: Savageau will be involved in the activities designed for K-6 educators. The program will focus on plant science including pollination, plant parts etc.
  - ii) Soundwaters – Greenwich Middle Schools: This program will combine a research project and presentation on November 13, 2007. Dickinson and Henrey have agreed to coordinate this with Soundwaters.

## 6) **Committee/Liaison Reports**

- a) Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board Liaison: Dickinson reported that the next meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2007. There is a concern that the recycling program is not profitable. Silberberg would like to get involved in collecting more information on feasibility of recycling a wider range of paper and plastic products.
- b) Parks and Recreation Liaison: Baker stated that the next meeting would take place on October 22, 2007.
- c) Open Space Acquisition: The involved parties are currently working on the appraisal of the Water Company Land located at Lake Avenue offered for Town purchase.
- d) Other: Savageau emphasized that we are in drought conditions, and voluntary water saving is strongly recommended.

## 7) **Old Business:**

- a) Clean Energy Resolution: The resolution proposed by the Conservation Commission would be tried again after the election.

b) Diamond Hill/Harbor View Conservation Subdivision (update): The proposal is scheduled for the next P&Z meeting.

**8) New Business:** A joint walk around the Greenwich Point with the Department of Parks and Recreation will be scheduled.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch