

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
May 1, 2008**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Renee F. Seblatnigg, Sue Baker, Eric Brower, Gary Silberberg, and Suzanne Graham

Staff: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

Audience present: Megan Raymond, William Kenny Assoc., LLC; Ron Sentman, Shemin Nurseries; Craig Flaherty, Redniss & Mead, Inc., Bruce Cohen, Fogarty Cohen Selby & Nemiroff, LLC; Michele Albonizio, Fogarty Cohen Selby & Nemiroff, LLC; Frank Napolitano, Esq; Don Van Rhyn, LEED AP; Jay Kane; R. Blair Murphy, RTM-District-8

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

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

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** Graham was seated for Dickinson and Silberberg was seated for Brash.
- 2) **Review and approval of minutes** for the April 3, 2008 regular monthly meeting. A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Silberberg to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence:**
 - a) A new issue of *The Habitat* was distributed to the commission members.
- 4) **Chairman's Report:** was not discussed
- 5) **Staff Report:**
 - a) **Wildlife Management**
 - i) **Goose Management Program – 2008:** A recent survey of goose nests at the Great Captain's Island revealed over 25 nests – all eggs were oiled. The number of nests has doubled compared to previous 2 years. An expanded survey showed no nests at Greenwich Point. Eggs found in nests located in Bruce Park and Millbrook area were also oiled. Brian Eltz, Conservation Assistant, is now working on this program with the contractor.
 - ii) **Critical Habitat/Conservation Areas** – Savageau reminded the Commission that a workshop on the new horseshoe crab census protocols is scheduled for May 13 at 7 p.m. at Audubon.

- iii) **Fishway:** Due to the high public interest in the program two additional open house events are scheduled for April 26, 2008 and May 17, 2008. The events are part of an ongoing education and outreach efforts carried by the Conservation Commission.

- b) **Town Properties**
 - i) **Greenwich Point Conservancy:** The GPS is interested in LEED certification for the renovation of the Innis Arden Cottage. Savageau is facilitating this with Baker and the GPC.
 - ii) **Lyon House:** The committee working on the project would like to post a sign recognizing the historical value of the building. The group is looking for a way to restore the building and preserve its significance.

- c) **Legislation 2008**
 - i) **Water company lands:** was not discussed
 - ii) **River protection:** The legislation proposing to provide a better protection to the watercourses and their buffers was turned down.
 - iii) **Bottle bill:** The bill may be compromised by a “single stream recycling”, which allows customers to commingle recyclable paper and mixed containers in one bin for collection

- 6) **Committee/Liaison Reports:**
 - a) **Cos Cob Power Plant Cleanup and Redevelopment:** Brower reported on the public hearing held by the Board of Selectmen. He indicated that the BOS appeared to be open to changes that were discussed at the meeting. Many residents spoke in favor of a one field alternative.
 - b) **Parks and Recreation Board:** Baker stated that at the meeting the Lin Lavery gave an overview of the Environmental Task Force. A discussion on artificial turf took place.
 - c) **Land Acquisition:** was not discussed
 - d) **GRAB:** was not discussed
 - e) **Environmental Task Force**
 - i) **Transportation:** Savageau reported that the Town would like to improve the transportation. The school bus system is being studied to help attract more students to ride a bus to school.

- 7) **Old Business**
 - a) **Stanwich School** – status report: P&Z postponed the hearing of the application due to the additional review and approval needed from the IWWA. The revised plan shows changes to the open space area and location of the leaching fields.

- 8) **New Business**
 - a) 1081 King Street – Shemin Nurseries – 5-lot subdivision:

Brower recused himself and left the room.

9) *Open Space*

- a) *The open space area in the southeastern corner of the property should be expanded, either in fee or through easement, northward along the eastern property line to the open space area associated with Sherwood Estates. This area should be a minimum of 50 ft wide to provide for movement of wildlife.*
- b) *A conservation easement should also be place on the existing wooded area in the northeast corner of Lot 5 and adjacent to the proposed open space in that area. This will increase the value of the proposed open space.*

Both of these actions will increase the value of the proposed open space and help to mitigate the fact that they are not contiguous.

- c) *The southern boundary of Lot 4 is open space and the wetland boundary is near the property line. It is recommended that the stonewall at the top of the slope overlooking the wetland be maintained to both protect the old stonewall and the conservation area. No activity should be allowed south*

of the stonewall.

10) Storm Water Management – Quantity and Quality

- a) The storm water bio-retention basin located on Lot 2 should be increased in size to retain more water and not just treat the first flush. A vegetated swale should be reviewed as a possible alternative to the proposed underground piping that leads from the basin to the wetland system. The existing “ditch” in the wetland should be repaired as presented to improve hydrology of the existing wetland.*
- b) The drainage system within the nursery (Lot 5) should be documented and reviewed including the recycled use of water for irrigation. This should include information on the irrigation pond and the outlet stream.*
- c) It is our understanding that the nursery operation is following best management practices for pesticide and fertilizer usage for crop propagation. This should be documented in an Integrated Crop Management plan. Additionally, storage and handling of these materials for wholesale or retail sale should also be part of the plan. If a Phase I or II storm water operation plan has been developed for the nursery operation, it should be submitted.*

11) Invasive Species Control

- a) Lot 2 includes a planting plan to restore and remediate an area that has been impacted and now includes invasive species. A conservation easement should be placed, not only for the drainage easement but also along the entire area proposed for the mitigation. Monitoring of the area should continue for more than the two years proposed.*
- b) Mile-a-minute weed has been found on this site and is proposed for eradication. This needs to be done whether or not the property is subdivided and should not wait until the land use process is complete. The Conservation Commission has been working closely with the CT Invasive Plant Working Group and specifically the University of Connecticut and the CT Agricultural Experiment Station on this new invasive to Connecticut. A plan for eradicating this plant from the property should be submitted to the Conservation Commission. This is important so that the plant is not distributed unknowingly by the nursery or during any construction activities. The Commission should be kept informed on the status of this eradication effort.*

12) A Phase I Archaeology Report has been conducted for the site and recommends that not further study is needed.

The motion carried unanimously.

Baker introduced Don van Rhyn who is helping the GPC and also the Green Buildings Subcommittee of the Environmental Action Task Force. Van Rhyn offered his expertise

to the Commission. He recommended using the LEED Silver standards for all of the Environmental Action Task Force committees. Rutherford thanked him for his interest. Savageau indicated that once the task force had recommendations, they would come to the Conservation Commission.

A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Baker to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried

Meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch

