

Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
March 6, 2008

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Lisette Henrey, Renee Seblatnigg, Sue Baker, Nancy Dickinson, Eric Brower, Gary Silberberg, and Suzanne Graham

Staff: Denise Savageau, Aleksandra Moch

Audience present: Michael and Lucy Danzinger, 51 John Street; Winston Robinson, Parks and Recreation; Jane Hogeman, Johnson, Kristoff, Hogeman & Perelli-Minetti LLP; Jay Fain, Jay Fain & Associates; Cece Sanders, Historical Perspectives, Inc.

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Rutherford

- 1) Seating of Alternates: Graham was seated for Seblatnigg (at the beginning of the meeting) and Silberberg was seated for Brash.
- 2) 2) Review and approval of minutes for the following:
 - a) February 7, 2008: a motion was made by Henrey and seconded by Dickinson to accept the minutes with the following corrections:
Page 1 should read Gary Meisel and delete Terry Coats, GRALU: James Riley, GRALU. Page 3 should read Peter Pretlay. The motion was carried.
 - b) February 6, 2008 meeting with P&R: a motion was made by Henrey and seconded by Dickinson to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was carried.
- 3) Review of Correspondence:
 - a) The Long Island Sound Fishery: *Flourishing or Floundering?* - program is scheduled for March 8, 2008 in Bridgeport. Savageau indicated that she would be attending.
 - b) Environmental symposium, *Nature at Home in Your Garden: Suburban Landscape to Help the Planet* is scheduled on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at Cole Auditorium, Greenwich Library. This program is being co-sponsored by the Conservation Commission.

4) Chairman's Report:

- a) Rutherford reported that Savageau and he represented the Conservation Commission at the IWWA meeting on February 25, 2008. The purpose of their appearance was to address the April 5, 2007, memo issued by the IWWA Chairman Tom Baptist. The Conservation Commission was asked to describe the operation of the Fishway and its potential for drawdown of Manus Pond during periods of low flow. A report and brief presentation followed by IWWA questions provided information needed. The Agency was pleased to hear that the fishway has been operated in a proper manner and it has been supporting a variety of educational programs in Town.
- b) Savageau discussed procedures for email and reminded members that the use of email should be limited to the exchange of information about events or meetings, not to discuss topics that may be a part of the discussion appropriate for the public meeting. Special care should be taken to ensure that the email exchanged by the Commission Members and Staff doesn't violate the *Freedom of Information Act* or the internal email regulations.
- c) BET received the proposed Budget and the designated committee is working on the final recommendations. Prior to submission to the BET, the First Selectman cut the Conservation Commission's consulting funds by \$10,000. Similar cuts were made in other agencies. Savageau indicated that this should not impact operations and that if additional consulting funds are needed, the Commission would be able to go to the BET for interim funding.

5) Staff Report:

- a) Wildlife Management
 - i) Deer management – Aerial survey 2008 – DEP's new policy: Due to the change in DEP's policy they would not longer provide the municipalities with an aerial survey. The Town would have to look for a private contractor to continue the program. It is unlikely that this could be accomplished this year.
 - ii) Goose Management Program – 2008: The program is about to resume. Savageau has been asked to provide her technical assistance to the abutting towns hoping to engage them into the program. Coverage of a larger area would provide a greater rate of success.
- b) Critical Habitat/Conservation Areas
 - i) Fishway – volunteer workshop: An additional training day is tentatively scheduled for April 5, 2008. So far the request for volunteers has been successful and Eltz is meeting with individuals at the fishway for hands on training.
- c) Town Properties
 - i) Certified Local Government for Historic Preservation: Savageau discussed the CLG process and recent misinformation about historic designations and town properties, including Greenwich Point. She reminded the Commission

that placing properties on the National Register of Historic Places does not encumber the property in any way.

- ii) Friends of Greenwich Point: Rutherford appointed Baker, Henrey and Dickinson to serve on a subcommittee that would review the work of Friends of Greenwich Point on their revised Master Plan and make recommendations about the plan to the Commission.
 - iii) Lyon House: Savageau is continuing work on the issue with Byram residents and the First Selectman.
 - iv) Cos Cob Power Plant Clean-up and Re-development: Savageau reported that First Selectman Peter Tesei is looking to move forward with a plan for the park. This will be on the BOS agenda April 10, a public hearing will be held in late April and a decision is planned for sometime in May. He would like to have Conservation and Park & Recreation work together on final recommendations. Rutherford appointed Brower, Baker, and Brash as a subcommittee to work on the CCPP redevelopment plan.
- d) Legislation 2008
- i) Water company lands: Savageau is working with CFE to ensure that bills like the one allowing gravel mining on Class I & II watershed lands do not happen.
 - ii) River protection: The legislator is looking to enhance the wetland act to give more protection to the streams and their buffers.
 - iii) Bottle bill: There is a need to expand the category of recyclable bottles in the state. Only several types of bottles are being recycled while the rest ends up in trash overwhelming the landfills.
- 6) Committee/Liaison Reports:
- a) Parks and Rec – no report
 - b) Environmental Task Force
 - i) Pesticides – Baker reported their first meeting is scheduled for March 14
 - ii) Artificial Turf – Henrey – no report
 - iii) Energy Conservation – Graham reported that the subcommittee is reviewing town operations and is considering recommending that the town conduct an evaluation of municipal buildings in terms of their energy efficiency. The purpose of the evaluation is to work on improvements leading to energy savings and set a strong example and direction for the private owners.
 - iv) Recycling – Dickinson – no report
 - c) GRAB- Dickinson reported that the committee a tour of the municipal transfer station. The area would be reconfigured and reorganized to improve the efficiency of its daily operations. The hazardous waste day is scheduled for May 10th. This year, as a new item, alkaline batteries would be accepted for recycling.
 - d) Land Acquisition – The negotiations between the Town and Water Company over the acquisition of the Lake Avenue parcel has begun. Brower and Savageau are on the Town's negotiating team. This will be a public/private partnership with the Greenwich Land Trust.

e) Tree Conservancy – Silberberg reported that the first Annual Meeting will be held at the Pinetum, tomorrow, March 7. Rutherford, Silberberg and Savageau will attend.

7) Old Business:

- a) Energy Resolution: The Selectman Committee received the resolution and responded with positive comments. A decision is expected at their next meeting.
- b) Stanwich School: The applicant is exploring a new location for the in-ground leaching field system. A meeting was held between the Town's consultant, CT DEP, P&Z staff, Conservation Commission staff and the applicant.

8) New Business:

- a) 47 John Street – 8:00 p.m.

Hogeman introduced the application. Fain provided a short description of the environmental setting. Cece discussed her archeological findings. Staff comments included a call for reconfiguration of the proposed open space, further archeological study, and correction of the encroachments made by the abutting neighbor. After questions and a short discussion among the commission members a motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Dickinson to adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the Conservation Commission has considered the 2-lot subdivision at 47 John Street and has reviewed the above referenced documents and conducted an on-site visit; and

Whereas the proposal provides for 15% open space and creates two oversized lots that are generally configured to work with the landscape;

Therefore the Commission recommends approval of the subdivision with the following conditions:

- 1. The open space should be reconfigured to include more of the upland on the backside of the pond and less of the pond itself. (See attached diagram for general configuration).*
- 2. That the existing encroachments to the proposed open space be rectified or the open space area be adjusted to not include the such encroachments along the property line to the south of the proposed open space area.*
- 3. That access to the open space parcel from lot 2 be specified on the plan.*
- 4. That the recommendations of the Archaeology report be implemented including a Phase IB report and that more of the historical data be included.*

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Seblatnigg to adjourn the meeting.
The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch