

**Conservation Commission Meeting  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
July 10, 2008**

**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

**Members present:** William Rutherford, Lisette Henrey, Eric Brower, Gary Silberberg, Susan Baker, Gulietta Fargion, and Suzanne Graham

**Staff:** Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

**Audience present:** Winston Robinson, Parks and Recreation; and Alex Hillman, Environmental Energy Solution, LLC

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

**Called to order** at 7:06 p.m. by Brower

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** Graham was seated for Seblatnigg, Fargion was seated for Brash and Silberberg was seated for Dickinson.
- 2) **Review and approval of minutes for the June 5, 2008 meeting:** A motion was made by Graham and seconded by Henrey to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence**
  - a) *Connecticut Wildlife* magazine issue for May/June focuses on shore and upland birds.
- 4) **Chairman's Report:**
  - a) Appointments – upcoming in 2009: There are 4 full members and 2 alternate members scheduled for reappointment in March. It was recommended that changes are made to the reappointment schedule so the expiration days are staggered over time, which will help maintain the quorum.
  - b) August 7, 2008 meeting – canceled: The regular monthly meeting in August was canceled due to vacation and P&Z meeting schedules.
  - c) PODC: The draft of the plan will be released before the next monthly meeting. A special meeting may be called at the end of August as a work session to review plans.

5) **Staff Report:**

a) Wildlife Management

i) **Goose Management Program** – 2008: The Conservation Commission staff received a letter from one of the neighbors of Binney Park thanking them for keeping the park clean and more enjoyable.

ii) Critical Habitat/Conservation Areas

(1) **Fishway:** The fish run is over for the season. The fishway is closed with the batterboard as per the management plan during low flow conditions. Eltz is monitoring weekly and will open periodically to let juvenile fish migrate downstream. Once flows are re-established, usually late August to early September, the fishway will be open to allow for passage of juveniles, eels and possibly sea-run brown trout.

(2) **Horseshoe crab count:** This year's survey shows a slight increase in the horseshoe crab population. Over 100 individuals were tagged at Greenwich beaches. Tagging will help to study their distribution and survival rate. The Conservation Commission will put signs in several beach areas to instruct the public to call the office when they locate the tagged species. This project was run as part of a larger effort statewide by Sacred Heart University and CT DEP.

(3) **IBA – GCI:** The Conservation Commission received a \$5,000 grant from the *Audubon Greenwich* to conduct a study of vegetative cover at *Great Captain's Island*. The island is one of the most important bird rookeries in Connecticut. There is great concern over the recent decrease of the bird population. The proposed management plan, initiated by the *Audubon*, and the study of the island's vegetative cover are only a few of the efforts being made to protect the resource.

b) Town Properties

i) **Lyon House:** *Cornell University* is performing a dendrochronological study of the wood used in the house's construction. The study should establish the approximate date in which it was built. This is being funded by the Commission.

The Historic Preservation Trust from Martha's Vineyard visited the Town to advise on the preservation of historic buildings. A similar organization is being considered for formation in town to satisfy the growing need to preserve and protect historic structures.

ii) **Cos Cob Power Plant:** The Board of Selectmen voted favorably on the proposed park design as recommended by the Commission. Rutherford and Savageau will follow-up with DPW on the plans.

c) Clean Energy: was not discussed

d) Others: Henrey announced that a free ferry ride and tour of Calf Island will be hosted by the Calf Island Conservancy this Sunday.

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

- a) Parks and Recreation Board:
  - i) **Committee for Active Recreation Solutions (CARS):** The committee was approved by the First Selectman to work on improving the existing, and creation of the new recreational sites and fields in Town. The Committee will report directly and act as Advisory to the First Selectman.
  - ii) **Harbor Management Planning:** A committee was formed to study the harbor management issues. The First Selectman will appoint the Harbor Master to work with the committee on the harbor management plan.
  
- b) Land Acquisition: Brower reported that the Town continues to work on closing the Water Company land acquisition.
  
- c) Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board: GRAB needs to be reaffirmed as an advisory board of the town. The board originated from the Conservation Commission and over time has become a self-appointed body.
  
- d) Environmental Task Force
  - i) **Recycling:** The first signs of improvement have been noticed through the Town Hall. Several additional recycling bins were added to the public areas, including the Town Meeting Room. A waste audit would be conducted to reduce the wastes and encourage recycling.
  - ii) **Pesticides:** was not discussed.
  - iii) **Artificial Turf:** The committee is working to determine the cost/benefit of long- term investment in natural fields versus artificial turf surfacing.
  - iv) **Energy Conservation:** Environmental Action Task Force and Energy Conservation Committee drafted the Energy Policy Resolution. A copy of the document was presented to the Conservation Commission. A motion was made by Graham and seconded by Baker to endorse the resolution. Motion was carried unanimously. Hillman, Environmental Energy Solution, LLC gave a short presentation. He is interested in being on the town energy team called for in the resolution..
  - v) **Cleaning Products:** the committee is in the process of finishing their resolution.
  - vi) **Green Buildings:** was not discussed.
  - vii) **Transportation:** the committee is working on a plan to encourage all children in public schools to use the buses while commuting to school.

## 7) **Old Business:**

- a) Stanwich School – status: IWWA approved the proposed site development plan.
- b) 1081 King Street – Sheman Nurseries – status: The application is pending with IWWA.

## 8) **New Business**

- a) No Child Left Inside/Great Park Pursuit: Savageau is working with some key environmental and educational groups to explore the idea for adapting this statewide program for local use. The program would be run with support and coordination from DEP and local groups. The plans are being made for next year.

**9) Adjournment:**

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

The motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch