

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
November 6, 2008**

Minutes

Attendance:

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

Staff: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

Audience present: Nancy P. Chapin

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

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

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** Silberberg was seated for Brash.
- 2) **Review and approval of minutes for the October 2, 2008 meetings:** A motion was made by Dickinson and seconded by Henrey to approve October 2, 2008 minutes as presented.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence**
 - a) The American Farmland Trust and Connecticut Conference of Municipalities offer a workshop in several locations in Fairfield County. The topic is “planning for agriculture”. Savageau encouraged the Conservation Commission Members to attend. The closet to us is in Weston on Dec 11 from 10-noon.
 - b) The new issue of the *Connecticut Wildlife* was distributed.
- 4) **Chairman’s Report:**
 - a) Appointments – upcoming in 2009: There are 4 full members and 2 alternate members scheduled for reappointment in March. One of the members will not apply for reappointment.
 - b) PODC: Rutherford and Savageau met with P&Z to review Commission comments. They agreed that Savageau would be helping with rewriting the environmental chapters of the plan. This is a priority workload for the Commission.

5) Staff Report:

a) Watershed Management

i) Byram River

- (1) USGS stream flow gauge: The Town has been included for FEMA funding as part of the States program submittal. This is for a stream gauge to be installed on the Byram River. The real time data recorded at the gauge will be available on the internet. The gauge will be installed on the southwestern side of the Comly Avenue Bridge in spring. The gauge will be owned and operated by the USGS. Collected stream discharge data will be used mainly as a drought and flood warning.
- (2) Byram River Watershed Coalition: The BWC has been awarded a 319 grant to develop a watershed management plan for the Byram River. The plan will include all the municipalities that fall into the watershed boundaries and is focused on water quality. A committee that includes stakeholders from Greenwich and NY communities has been formed.

ii) Mianus River

- (1) SWRPA application: SWRPA applied for 319 grant money to be used for the Mianus River watershed management plan.

b) Wildlife Management

i) Deer Management

- (1) Fairfield County Municipal Deer Management Alliances (FCMDMA)
 - (a) Forum on Impact on Forest Ecology. Savageau reported on the program which included speakers from NJ Conservation Foundation and Connecticut Audubon. Besides the obvious impacts on forest health and habitat, information was presented in the impacts on soils and hydrology. New research is being conducted at Rutgers looking more closely at hydrology including infiltration and flooding.
 - (b) Tick study data –UNH: University of New Haven conducted a tick sampling in Greenwich. About half of the sampled population tested positive for Lime Disease. Future study should include a wider range of tick born bacteria.

ii) Critical Habitat/Conservation Areas

- (1) Fishway: The Mianus River Watershed Council has been awarded a grant to support the installation of video monitoring equipment at the fishway. A second grant is being applied for to support the concrete repair work needed on the fishway. Savageau also reported that a grant was also awarded to the Town to survey eels on the Byram River.
- (2) IBA – GCI: Penny Sharp, consulting botanist, Michael Aurelia, volunteer, and Brian Eltz, Conservation Assistant, conducted a vegetative survey of the Great Captain's Island. A report is being developed. The consultants fees were paid for by a grant from Audubon Connecticut.

- (3) Signage for Town Parks: Savageau attended the The Friends of Greenwich Point meeting last night where she spoke about the geese management, archeology and invasive species. She also discussed the need for educational signage on living with wildlife. FOGP are interested in working with the Conservation Commission on invasive species management at the park and also the signage.

c) Town Properties

- i) Lyon House: was not discussed
- ii) Cos Cob Power Plant: the proposed site improvement plan will be discussed at the next Conservation Commission meeting.
- iii) Energy
 - (1) Energy Management Team: Peter Tesei put out a press release asking for volunteers to serve on the team. Savageau is coordinating with Tesei on this effort.
 - (2) GHS Energy Club: Savageau spoke at their last meeting. The club will promote and encourage the property owners to sign for clean energy. The clean energy program is run by the CT Light & Power.
 - (3) GCTV – The *Greenwich Outdoors* series is on hold until the POCD work is complete.
- d) Other: Savageau discussed the draft of the new budget and the operation plan for the department.

6) **Committee/Liaison Reports**

- a) Parks and Recreation Board: a committee will be formed to work with the newly appointed Harbor Master. Silberberg volunteered to be a liaison and attend the committee's meetings. It is important to make sure that the committee pays attention to the water quality and wildlife protection measures at the coastal facilities.
- b) Land Acquisition: was not discussed
- c) Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board Smart Waste: The CT DEP hired a consultant to work with select municipalities, including Greenwich, to decrease the generation of household wastes. A presentation has been made to DPW on the consultant findings and included recommendations for a pay-as-you-throw program that could save the town over \$2 million. DPW is considering this program. Savageau will be working with DPW Commissioner Siebert to review the proposal and possibly implement in town.
- d) Environmental Task Force
 - i) Recycling: was not discussed
 - ii) Pesticides: no new work since initial resolution
 - iii) Artificial Turf: The committee analyzed the new generation of the artificial turf used in Cambridge, Massachusetts and is working towards recommendations for the town..

- iv) Energy Conservation: committee has finished its work
- v) Cleaning Products: the committee is finalizing the draft of their resolution.
- vi) Green Buildings: has not met recently.
- vii) Transportation: the committee is drafting a resolution addressing the school transportation.

7) **Old Business:**

- a) 1081 King Street – Shemin Nurseries – status: The application was approved by the IWWA with several changes. The revised project will be resubmitted to P&Z.

8) **New Business:** The shellfishing event hosed by the Shellfish Committee is scheduled for Sunday, November 9, 2008 at the Old Greenwich Yacht Club at Greenwich Point. The event will open the shellfishing season. The program will include viewing of three shellfishing boats and “hands on” demonstrations.

9) **Adjournment:**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch

