

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
October 2, 2008**

Minutes

Attendance:

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

Staff: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

Audience present: n/a

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 and Silberberg was seated for Brash.
- 2) **Review and approval of minutes for the August 28, 2008 and September 4, 2008 meetings:** A motion was made by Graham and seconded by Henrey to approve the August 28, 2008 minutes as presented. A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Graham to approve the September 4, 2008 minutes as presented. Both motions carried unanimously.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence**
 - a) The 31st annual meeting and environmental conference of Connecticut Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC) meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2008 in Wallingford, CT.
 - b) A new issue of *The Habitat* contains very informative legislative review for the year 2008.
- 4) **Chairman's Report:**
 - a) Appointments – upcoming in 2009: There are 4 full members and 2 alternate members scheduled for reappointment in March.
 - b) PODC: Fox, Heller, Rutherford and Savageau met to discuss the proposed draft. Savageau will draft language for sections of the environmental chapter of the plan.

5) **Staff Report:**

- a) Amendments to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): Savageau reviewed the new FOI requirements. The following amendments were adopted during the June 2008 Special Legislative Session:

Within seven (7) days of a meeting of a public agency, the minutes of such public agency, in addition to being available for public inspection, shall be posted on the public agency's website.

The yearly schedule of the regular meetings of a public agency shall be posted on the public agency's website.

Notice of each special meeting of every public agency shall be posted not less than twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting to which such notice refers on the public agency's website.

b) Watershed Management

- i) Byram River: Savageau has been working with the USGS to install a stream gauge that would register stream discharge data of Byram River. The gauge will help to establish the trends and provide information for stream models that will help to predict future flooding and drought events. The gauge will be installed in the area of Comly Avenue bridge. The cost of installation, operation, and maintenance will require \$35,000 for the first year. Savageau has prepared a grant application seeking State and Federal funding working with Dan Warzoha. Initial feedback for the funding has been positive...
- ii) SWPA: is working to develop a watershed approach to flooding problems. Mianus watershed was one of the selected areas for the study. The organization is looking to receive funding from the state and matching amount from the Town.

c) Wildlife Management

- i) Goose Management Program – 2008: There are two new locations pointed out by the public complaints that may need to be included in the management program. The picnic areas at Greenwich Point and Byram Beach have experienced increased goose population over the summer.
- ii) Critical Habitat/Conservation Areas
- (1) Fishway: the Conservation Commission was pleased with two new grants that were awarded by EPA:
- (a) \$6,000.00 for Mianus river Watershed Council to fund video monitoring of diadromous fish migration
- (b) \$2,000.00 for Town of Greenwich to fund snorkeling for eels below dams on the Byram River.
- (2) IBA – GCI: Savageau reported that the \$5K grant from Audubon was used to hire Penny Sharp, Certified Wetland Scientist to conduct a vegetative survey of the Great Captain's Island. Brian Eltz and Michael Aurelia helped by providing in-kind service as part of the grant match.

Brash has provided comments on the draft IBA management plan to Audubon. A public meeting on the plan will be held at Audubon on Oct 21.

d) Town Properties

- i) Cos Cob Power Plant: The final plan will be submitted to P&Z. The Conservation Commission will provide comments during the P&Z review process.
- e) Clean Energy – GHS Energy Club: Clean energy club, established by the Greenwich High School students will work with the Conservation Commission to carry the clean energy initiatives.
- f) GCTV – The *Greenwich Outdoors* series that was initiated by Michael Aurelia will be featured on Channel 79 cable. The idea of the program is to introduce and promote great natural areas in Greenwich. Savageau has been talking to a consultant who will help with opening montage.
- g) Others: Henry announced that the clean-up day for Calf Island will follow the Calf Island Conservancy annual meeting on October 16, 2008. The interpretative signs prepared for the island are currently on display at 40 Park Avenue of Post Road.

6) **Committee/Liaison Reports**

a) Parks and Recreation Board:

- i) Committee for Active Recreation Solutions (CARS): The committee met on September 24, 2008. The discussion focused on the new pool that is needed for the Byram Beach. John Conte, Conte & Conte, volunteered to take the responsibility for the project design.
- ii) Harbor Management Planning: Jonathan Asch was appointed by the First Selectman as a Harbor Master.
- b) Land Acquisition: The Town continues to work with GLT on the Water Company land acquisition.
- c) Environmental Task Force
 - i) Artificial Turf: The subcommittee has identified a new material made of coconut fiber may be used to substitute the rubber infill for the field surfacing as an eco-friendly alternative. This is being researched.
 - ii) Energy Conservation: An Energy Management Team will be appointed by the First Selectman to address the energy conservation issues in Town-owned facilities.
 - iii) Green Buildings: no report – committee may need to be reorganized.
 - iv) Transportation: The representatives of public and private schools met to discuss the student transportation issues and the use of private vehicles rather than school buses.

7) **Old Business:**

- a) 1081 King Street – Shemin Nurseries – status: The application was approved by the IWWA and it is pending with P&Z.

Adjournment:

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

The motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch