

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
February 5, 2009**

Minutes

Attendance:

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

Staff: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

Audience present: Nancy Chapin

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Rutherford

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** Silberberg was seated for Brash
- 2) **Review and approval of draft minutes of January 8, 2009 monthly meeting:** A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Henrey to accept the minutes with the following correction: page 4, item 6b change filed to field. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence:** no correspondence
- 4) **Chairman's Report**

Rutherford reported that Brower, Savageau and he had met with P&Z and followed up with a memo dated January 15. Many of the suggested changes were included in the revised draft of the *2009 Plan of Conservation and Development* dated January 19, 2009 which went to public hearing February 3, 2009. He indicated that there are several items that relating to Conservation that were not addressed and should be in the plan. Rutherford stressed that we are engaged in an ongoing dialogue with P&Z and will be having a follow-up meeting. He reiterated the Conservation is committed to working with P&Z toward the completion of the POCD in a timely manner.

- 5) **Staff Report**
 - a) **Watershed Management**
 - i) Byram River

- (1) Byram River Watershed Symposium – March 12, 2009: The symposium will be held in the Cole Auditorium, located in Greenwich Library.
- (2) Eel Survey: The grant received for the project successfully passed through RTM and BET.

b) Wildlife Management

- i) Deer management – no report
- ii) Critical Habitat/Conservation Areas
 - (1) Fishway:
 - (a) The Conservation Commission Staff will hold a meeting on February 19, 2009 for the volunteers needed to help with the fish monitoring program. The meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. in Town Hall. Staff is also working on a hat design for Conservation Commission Habitat Volunteers.
 - (b) Open house schedule is being prepared with tentative dates set for April 4 and 25 and May 16.
 - (c) The gift of the underwater camera designed for fish viewing was accepted by RTM. The camera will be used to study and monitor the fish run.
 - (2) IBAs:
 - (a) Great Captain's Island – no update
 - (b) Greenwich Point is also a designated as an Important Bird Area. The Friends of Greenwich Point is looking to help fund a study evaluating the habitat values and providing recommendations for the future site enhancement and maintenance. Savageau will be working with Audubon CT on this and attend the FoGP meeting on April 1.

c) Town Properties

- i) Historical Landscape Report: Spaman is coordinating a review of the historical uses and designs of four of the Town parks. The idea behind the data gathering is to maintain the character and preserve the important elements of the design created by Olmsted and other influential landscape architects. Today started the first of a 2-day public hearing sessions on the parks. Ms.Chapin indicated that she had attended the meetings today. Savageau indicated that she would be attending both meetings tomorrow (Friday). She indicated that Spaman had included Conservation in reviewing the RFP for the consultant and this is a good example of cooperation between the departments.
- ii) Greenwich Point
 - (1) Signage – Savageau indicated that FoGP is also looking at helping with interpretive signs for the Point. Cynthia Ehlinger is leading this effort.
 - (2) Archaeology/Habitat Restoration – Savageau reported that Spaman had started the second Phase of the invasive species habitat restoration near the Clambake area and she would be following up with Ernie Wiegand on the archaeology again.

- d) Energy Management Team: First meeting took place on January 27, 2009. This team was created in response to the Environmental Action Task Force's recommendation and the Board of Selectmen resolution passed in July 2008. The consists of staff and community members and will be looking at town operations and make recommendations for energy efficiency and sustainability.
- e) Education/Outreach
 - i) Go Greener Greenwich: Year 2009 is the year of science. Selectman Lavery is continuing her leadership and has brought together some new faces to work on an education campaign to complement the work done by the Environmental Action Task Force and the Conservation Commission. Baker and Savageau are involved. The idea is to get more residents in Greenwich involved in green living. Monthly topics will include recycling, chemical reduction, water conservation, transportation, and energy. Savageau indicated that the Conservation Commission will be handling the water conservation section in June and July.
 - ii) Earth Day Month – Savageau will be working again on the Earth Day proclamation and calendar. She is hoping to coordinate this with the Go Greener program.
 - iii) GCTV- Savageau indicated that she is hoping to get this going once the POCD work is completed.

6) **Committee/Liaison Reports**

- a) Parks and Recreation Board: Baker reported that the Board had a long discussion about the proposed site development plan for the Cos Cob Power Plant. The Board voted unanimously to support the project as presented to P&Z without amendments. Brower reported that he attended the P&Z meeting to represent the Commission. Rutherford appointed Brower and Savageau to join him on a subcommittee to coordinate with DPW on the final project design that looks at incorporating in Conservation Commission comments for softening the slope.
- b) GRAB: Dickinson reported that GRAB was concerned that the new contractor, was bringing wasted out-of-state to a landfill. Due to economic conditions, City Carting is taking the municipal solid wastes to the burn plant where they are being converted to energy. The transfer station offers recycling of e-wastes, batteries, cell phones and old analog TVs. Dickinson recommended considering a converter box rather than the recycling of old TVs.
- c) Environmental Task Force
 - i) Recycling: Dickinson reported that the committee has developed a resolution. The Board of Selectmen will be voting on it next month. A motion was made by Baker and seconded by Henrey to endorse the resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
 - ii) Pesticides: Baker reported that Audubon Greenwich offers an organic lawn program. *Organic Lawn and Turf Care for Professionals* with Chip Osborne, Expert Consultant on Organic Lawns & Turf will be held on February 26, 2009.

- iii) Artificial Turf: Henrey reported that the EATF will present its findings and a resolution to the Board of Selectmen on February 26, 2009. Savageau indicated that Spaman had also presented his plan for the pesticide-free turf maintenance to the task force.
- iv) Cleaning Products: Savageau reported that the Board of Selectmen adopted the resolution. The resolution will promote green clean products. The program provides time for transition. Greenwich Hospital has been pioneering in the use of the green products in Town. It is expected that a legislation requiring the use of green cleaning products in schools will be passed in the near future.
- v) Green Building: Silberberg reported that the meetings were not well attended, but there is a volunteer working on a resolution.
- vi) Transportation: Savageau reported that all schools, private and public worked hard to contribute their efforts to the current draft of resolution. The schools involved students to gain more support for the proposal. A resolution is currently being considered by the Board of Selectmen. Baker made a motion seconded by Dickinson to endorse the resolution as presented.. Motion carried unanimously.

7) **Old Business**

- a) Cos Cob Power Plant – discussed under Liaison reports
- b) 109 Byram Shore Road - Dickinson asked about the status of 109 Byram Shore Road. The property changed hands, and there is a concern that the new site development may not respect the archeologically sensitive areas. As per the subdivision conditions, those areas should be preserved. Savageau will follow-up to see if the P&Z conditions will still apply.

A motion was made by Henrey and seconded by Dickinson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch