

**Conservation Commission Meeting  
Cone Room  
September 3, 2009**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford, Sue Baker (9:30 p.m.), Nancy Dickinson, Alexander Brash (7:45p.m.), Eric Brower, Christopher Franco, Giulietta Fargion, Nancy Chapin, and Gary Silberberg

Staff: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

Audience present: Mark Heller, S.E. Minor & Co., Inc., Peter Tesei, First Selectman, and Winston Robinson, Parks and Recreation Board

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

**Called to order** at 7:15 p.m. by Rutherford.

Rutherford welcomed newest member Chris Franco to the Commission. Introductions were made all around.

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** Silberberg was seated for Henrey, Fargion was seated for Brash (until 7:45 p.m.) and Chapin was seated for the Baker (until 9:30 p.m.).
- 2) **Review and approval of minutes** of June 4, 2009 monthly meeting: A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Chapin to accept the minutes with the following corrections: 1) page 1 correct spelling of Baker and 2) page 4 correct spelling of Bargh. The motion carried unanimously.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence:**
  - a) A new issue of “The Habitat” was distributed to the Commission Members. The issue contains an interesting article on watershed management. CACIWC’S 32nd Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference is scheduled for November 14, 2009.
- 4) **Chairman’s Report:** Rutherford indicated that the POCD and Goal setting will be focus of the working meeting and is important part of the Commissions role.
- 5) **Staff Report**
  - a) **Go Green Greenwich** - Savageau stated that Water Conservation program in June/July was a big success. A series of tours highlighting the source of portable water, its uses, and treatment before being discharged to Long Island Sound was organized to demonstrate the importance of this natural resource and its need for

conservation. The tours were initiated by the trip to the Bargh Reservoir followed by the sewage treatment plant and ending with cruise over Long Island Sound. Rutherford noted that he received positive comments on the program from Tom Baptist, Vice President of Audubon Connecticut. Savageau recommended that Conservation work with Parks and Rec to enhance the “Cruises to Nowhere” program by making at least one of them an eco-cruise. Sue Baker and Nancy Chapin worked on this program with staff.

Eco-fair - Savageau also reported that the Go Greener Eco-Fair will be held Saturday, Sept 12. Again, Baker and Chapin are working on this. The Commission will have a booth that is aimed at getting folks to “Think Outside the Bottle”. The campaign is calling to replace the use of expensive bottled water with safe and clean tap water. A water taste test will be part of this effort. Anyone interested in helping at the event should contact Denise.

7) **New Business** (7:30 p.m.)

- a) **Open Space Exchange – re-subdivision 75 Rock Maple Avenue:** Heller presented the project to the Commission members. He discussed the proposed areas of the open space to be swapped. The Commission members had several questions and concerns about the encroachments that included the Town-owned land. Brower made a motion, seconded by Brash, to adopt the following resolution:

*Whereas, the deed restricted area at 75 Rock Maple Road has been encroached upon by a previous owner, and*

*Whereas, the new owner wishes to correct this violation, and*

*Whereas, the area offered to be placed under deed restriction is adjacent to additional open space and the exchange does not diminish the original intent of the open space restriction,*

*Therefore the Conservation Commission recommends approval of the proposed re-subdivision subject to the following conditions:*

- 1. That the existing vegetative buffer be maintained in the current non-development area where encroachment has not already taken place.*
- 2. That deer fencing is removed from Town owned property.*
- 3. That the deed restriction be reviewed as it relates to deer fencing in non-development areas and appropriate measures be taken for removal if the fencing is not allowed.*
- 4. That invasive species that were intentionally planted in the non-development*

*areas be removed under the direction of the Conservation Director or designee.*

*5. That the new non-development areas are monumented and other areas re-monumented if needed.*

The motion was approved unanimously.

5) Staff report – continued

- b) Energy grant - status: Savageau reported that she completed the application for the \$627,500 awarded from the EECBG program to the Town of Greenwich. The funds will be used for purchase and installation of solar panels on Glenville School. Tubular solar system made by Solyndra was selected for the project. Unlike conventional solar panels, which are made of flat solar cells, the selected system comprises rows of cylindrical solar cells. The horizontal mounting and unique “air-flow” properties of solar panels simplify the installation process, shortening it from weeks to several days. Solyndra system provides the lowest installation cost and the highest annual solar electrical energy output. EPA has awarded a major grant to this company for development of this new technology. This grant took a great deal of time, as it was the first federal grant that the town has applied for using the new electronic system. Subsequent grants should be easier.

8) Old Business

- a) Telephone directories ordinance: Silberberg summarized the revised his draft resolution. The proposed ordinance if adopted will help to decrease the cost of recycling the unwanted telephone books and decrease the unnecessary use of paper. Brower made a motion, seconded by Chapin, to endorse the resolution. The motion was approved unanimously. After reviewed by the Law Department, the resolution will be heading to the Board of Selectmen and RTM for approvals.
- b) Mission/Goal Setting – work session

Review newly adopted POCD: Tesei stated that he is working on formation of the implementation committees. Rutherford pointed out that Savageau, Brower and he work hard on revisions to the plan. Not all of the comments/corrections made by the Commission were considered for the final draft. He believed that there are several areas of the plan pertaining to environmental issues that are missing, or if presented differently, could provide greater benefit to the future growth and improvements in Town.

Rutherford stated that a subcommittee is needed to look at the POCD implementation part. Savageau led the Commission through the implementation items assigned to the Conservation Commission – much discussion ensued. Brash recommended that each Commission member rank the items and set the degree of their importance. The newly formed subcommittee will put the results together for the discussion. Savageau will send list with only CC items included.

Operational: Savageau handed out a draft of the department operation plan that followed the format set by the Town. She summarized the content and discussed the main points with the Commission Members. She also noted that the format is dictated by the Town and that changes to format may be forthcoming. She asked members to look at the plan in relation to the implementation work of the POCD.

- 9) A motion was made by Brash and seconded by Brower to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch