

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
June 4, 2009**

Minutes

Attendance:

Members present: William Rutherford (arrived at 8:06 p.m.), Lisette Henrey, Sue Baker, Nancy Dickinson, Alexander Brash, Nancy Chapin, and Gary Silberberg

Staff: Denise Savageau and Aleksandra Moch

Audience present: Ginny Gwynn, Greenwich Land Trust, Ann Sawyer, Winston Robinson, Parks and Recreation Board

Commission Discussion Session – 7:00 p.m.

Called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Brash

- 1) **Seating of Alternates:** Silberberg was seated for Brower and Chapin was seated for the vacant position.
- 2) **Review and approval of minutes of May 7, 2009** monthly meeting: A motion was made by Silberberg and seconded by Henrey to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried.
- 3) **Review of Correspondence:**
 - a) **Town Email** – Savageau distributed information on the availability of Commission members to have a Town email address. Interested members should contact the IT dept at town hall.
 - b) **Long Island Sound Assembly** - Henrey indicated that she could no longer attend the LISA meetings. She has been the representative for over 12 years. Savageau indicated she would see if this is a Conservation Commission appointment or Town appointment. Consensus that it would be good to continue to have Conservation represented at the Commission. Bake and Silberberg offered to attend the next meeting in Henrey's stead until a new appointment is made.
- 4) **Chairman's Report:**
 - a) **Meeting schedule** – Based on past practice, Chairman indicated that at this time the regularly scheduled meeting in August is canceled.
 - b) **Mission/goal setting** – Rutherford stressed the importance of this. Savageau indicated that once the POCD is adopted by the RTM, the Commission will need to review as part of goal setting for next year. Consensus to use the July meeting as a work session to start this effort.

5) Staff Report

- a) **Watershed Management:** Savageau reported that FEMA was requiring additional information from CTDEP and has caused slight delay to the gage installation. Staffing issues at the State have created a bit of a backlog. New staff has been assigned to the DHSEM and the project is back on track and it should be this summer.
- b) **Wildlife Management**
 - i) Critical Habitat/Conservation Areas
 - (1) Fishway: This year the fish run appears to be slightly above average.
 - (2) BAs: No new information
 - (3) Horseshoe crab Survey: They arrived this week in lower numbers than the average. Additional counts are scheduled for Sunday 11:50 a.m. and Friday 10:30 p.m. at Greenwich Point.

At 7:30 moved to New Business as per the agenda

8) New Business

- a) **MI – Holly Hill Lane Land Disposition-** 7:30 p.m.: Savageau reviewed the proposal and the Commission's request to P&Z to delay action until the Commission had reviewed the MI. She outlined procedures that were in place of land disposition. She also indicated that concerns had been raised about process and not necessarily the merits of this MI. Gwynn, representing the Greenwich Land Trust, expressed disappointment with the lack of information regarding the available land. She recognized the fact that this particular piece may not be of Land Trust interest; however, she was concerned that if the lack of proper process and disclosure regarding the land disposition continues, there could be another opportunity in the future that the organization may miss. Discussion ensued. (Note:Rutherford joined the meeting at 8:06 p.m. and Brash turned over the Chair to him for the rest of the meeting)

Brash made a motion, seconded by Silberberg, that a letter be drafted by the Chairman expressing the Commission's concern about process, and should include discussion on process, and reasons for the Commission to be included in all discussions of land disposition including leveraging site plan design and the POCD. Motion was carried unanimously. Rutheford will work with Savageau on draft letter.

5) Staff Report - continues

- c) **Town Properties**
 - i) Historical Landscape Report – Martha Lyon, Landscape Architecture, LLC presented her final report on May 13th at a public forum. The report pointed

out that the history and the existing features in the parks should serve as a base for the future management and site improvements. Savageau indicated that Parks and Rec was interested in working with Conservation as the reports are used for park planning.

- ii) **Parks – friends group:** Savageau reported that there is a group interested in creating a friends group for all Greenwich Parks. Chapin reported on how this evolved. A presentation was made to Parks and Recreation Board. This is just in the beginning stage and will proceed slowly to ensure that this group works closely with the Town and does not overlap with other groups.

d) Energy

- i) **Energy Management Team:** Savageau reported on the progress to date. The team is working on establishing a base line. The Town will be increasing the number of hybrid cars in town fleet.
- ii) **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant:** the Town has been awarded \$627,500 from the EECBG program. Savageau will prepare a proposal for available grant, which, if obtained, will be used for the purchase and installation of solar panels on Glenville School. This is a federal grant and must be applied for using the federal on-line process. She expects this to be a major workload for June with a deadline for the application June 25.

- e) **Artificial Turf Work Group:** Savageau reported that an initial meeting was held. She was appointed co-chair with Caroline Baisley, Director of Health. Baker and Henrey represent the Commission on the workgroup

6) Committee/Liaison Reports

- a) **Parks and Recreation Board:** Baker reported that the Board discussed the Light House dedication ceremony. A new pump-out station for the Grass Island may be considered. The Tree Ordinance is coming back to the RTM for a vote. The last item related to the conservation issues at the Board's meeting was a discussion on POCD. Chapin also attended the meeting and reported on all areas the Board is working on.
- b) **Land Acquisition:** no report
- c) **Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board (GRAB):** Dickinson reported that John McKee is back Holly Hill Transfer Station after his leave for military service. He is working on several improvements. Due to McKee's return, GRAB did not get to the phone book discussion. Silberberg will be attending a future GRAB meeting to discuss the phone book issue.
- d) **Coastal Resources Advisory Committee:** Silberberg reported that the Harbor Master is looking to rearrange some mooring areas. The HM also receives all CT DEP applications relating to docks. Savageau indicated that P&Z and Conservation also received these mailings and that we routinely comment on dock

applications. Consensus of the Commission to send a letter to the Harbor Master, outlining the role of Conservation and the need for us to work together.

- e) **Go Greener Greenwich:** The Conservation Commission is responsible for the Water Conservation Month. There will be a tour starting at the Barge reservoir, which is the water source ending at the sewer treatment plant, where the journey of the water ends. Savageau, Baker, and Chapin are coordinating this effort. Chapin reported that a water display is up at the Cos Cob Library until July 1 and that all libraries have agreed to have a display of books focusing on water resources.
- f) **Other:** Silberberg and Baker attended a meeting at the Yacht Club recently sponsored by the Nature Conservancy. The meeting focused on environmentally friendly ways to dredge and the potential of introducing eel grass to the tidal marshes.

Calf Island - Henrey stated that all the osprey poles are occupied this year. In addition, she stated that the interpretative signs for the Calf Island are ready for installation this week. Their dedication is scheduled for July 18th.

7) **Old Business**

- a) Cos Cob Power Plant: no updates

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Aleksandra Moch