

Conservation Commission
MINUTES
Regular Meeting – March 11, 2013 @ 7:00 pm
Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

Present: Ann Astarita, Bill Darrin, Mary Gaudet-Wilson, Joe Hovious , and Michele McLeod; **Absent:** Marj Cramer and Adria Henderson; **Staff Present:** Rob Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning and Land Use (joined the meeting at 8:36 pm) and Tammy Hazen, Clerk

These Minutes are subject to the approval of the Conservation Commission

The Public Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Commissioner Hovious requested to add the approval of minutes of February 11, 2013 to the agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

CORRESPONDENCE – Commissioner Hovious said the commission has received an invitation from the Lions Club to participate in the Great Pootatuck Duck Race scheduled for Saturday May 25th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Hovious motioned to approve the minutes of February 11, 2013. Commissioner Darrin seconded the motion. The changes are as follows: Under “Review of Commissions”, change the word “die” to “due”. The minutes were approved as amended.

Commissioner Darrin motioned to approve the minutes of February 26, 2013. Commissioner Hovious seconded the motion. The changes are as follows: Under “Public Participation”, change the sentence to read “Brandon Johnson, from the Boy Scouts, was in attendance along with family members.” The minutes were approved as amended.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Review of Other Commissions – Commissioner Hovious said Parks and Recreation will be meeting on March 12th. He has not heard anything from the Trails group but has emailed Amy Mangold and waiting for her response. Commissioner Astarita said there are no updates for Inland Wetlands and Commissioner Wilson said there are no updates for Legislative Council.

Task List – Commissioner Hovious distributed and reviewed the latest Task List with the commissioners. This list will be updated at the end of each meeting and redistributed to the commissioners.

E-Mail Account – Commissioner Astarita asked Mr. Sibley the possibility of creating an email account for the commission. Mr. Sibley said that Scott Sharlow approved this. Commissioner Astarita will contact Mr. Sharlow.

OLD BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS:

Fairfield Hills Open Space

1. **Kiosks** – Item tabled.
2. **Committee on Fairfield Hills (Open Space)** – Item tabled.

Development of 37 Old Bethel Road – The commissioners reviewed the maps and discussed their walk on the property. A discrepancy in the calculations were found and corrected. She attended the Planning and Zoning hearing to ask about the subdivision regulations and to request an access way to the property. Access was not granted as it was expected that an adjoining parcel will be attained through purchase by the Town. It also appears that land on the Bethel side may be saved for open space. Planning and Zoning approved the subdivision.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Open Space Inventory and Maintenance Subcommittee – Commissioner Hovious discussed two lists that he and Ms. Hazen are working to integrate. He said someone needs to go through all the open space files to review the contents and coordinate with the list.

1. Fulton – Commissioner Darrin asked if the Fulton property was surveyed. Mr. Sibley said there is a recorded subdivision map and that it was staked. It still needs to be marked with open space signs.
2. Laurel Trail – Mr. Sibley discussed a discrepancy on property purchased from Barry Southard where the title company missed something. The description did not match up to a previously recorded division of land. This property is on a hillside adjacent to Town property. It is recorded in the Town Clerk's office but not yet in the GIS. This needs to get fixed.
3. Pole Bridge – No updates.
4. Taunton Lake OS Parking Area – No updates.

Education Subcommittee

1. **Development of Website** – Commissioner McLeod said she is waiting for the Dreamweaver software and laptop. She distributed samples of graphic logos that Alisha developed. Their project is stalled until the software and laptop is available.
2. **Possible Seminar/or Pamphlets** – Commissioner Astarita will check the latest laws to see if the current "Got Wetlands" brochure needs to be updated.

Invasives Subcommittee

1. **Handling of Invasives at Transfer Station** – Commissioner Wilson reviewed State recommendations with Logan Senack, who felt the commission's plans are appropriate.

Mr. Sibley joined the meeting at 8:36 pm. Commissioner Hovious motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:40 pm. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Hovious motioned to exit Executive Session at 10:01.

2. **Bamboo** – Commissioner Wilson will attend a hearing in Hartford regarding two bills relating to Bamboo.
3. **Meeting with Roxbury CC** – Commissioner Wilson met with members of the Roxbury Conservation Commission to help prepare them for a seminar on invasives. She shared this commission's PowerPoint presentation and other invasive marketing materials.
4. **Iroquois** – Commissioner Wilson asked Mr. Sibley if he received any invasive control documents from Iroquois. Mr. Sibley said intends to call Dave Fontaine.

Strategic Planning Subcommittee – No update.

POCD Subcommittee – Commissioner Hovious said at some point the commission should work with the 1993 Pootatuck Greenway.

NRI Subcommittee – No Update.

Al's Trail – No Update.

STAFF REPORT / Budget Update – Mr. Sibley said the Land Use budget looks identical to last year's budget. He said the commission should continue to keep asking for line items each year.

NEW BUSINESS

Castle Hill Development – Commissioner Wilson met with Guy Peterson (Newtown Forest Association), Dan Morrissey (Aquarian), and Kate Brown with the Trust for Public Land, to look at options for keeping the land currently owned by the Bridgeport Diocese from being developed. The Conservation Commission discussed walking and evaluating the property. Commissioner Hovious discussed a meeting he attended where a group was working on gathering funding to buy the property. There has been no additional information on this.

Conservation Easement Language – No update.

OS Conservation Regulations – Commissioner Hovious provided copies of the Town and Borough regulations to the commission. These will be reviewed at a later date.

Commissioner Hovious motioned to adjourn at 10:30 pm. Commissioner Astarita seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Hazen