

**Conservation Commission**  
**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – April 4, 2013 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT**

**Present:** Ann Astarita, Marj Cramer, Mary Gaudet-Wilson, and Joe Hovious;  
**Absent:** Bill Darrin, Adria Henderson, Michele McLeod; **Staff Present:** 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

**ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA** – Commissioner Wilson added “90 Hattertown Road” under Old Business and Action Items.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – No new correspondence. Commissioner Wilson reminded the commissioners that volunteers are needed for the Earth Day and Duck Race events.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Hovious motioned to approve the minutes of March 26, 2013. Commissioner Cramer seconded the motion. The changes are as follows: Under POCD Subcommittee; change “... the commission should work with the 1993 Pootatuck Greenway.” to “... the commission should review the 1993 Pootatuck Greenway.” The minutes were approved as amended.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

Review of Other Commissions – Commissioner Hovious said that the Parks and Rec. Commission discussed a proposed Wetlands Education Center at Dickenson Park as presented by Ms. Billie Cohen. It was noted that the Parks and Rec. and the Nature Conservancy are in supports of this. Their minutes also discussed the Fairfield Hills Master Plan. The Fairfield Hills trail will be discussed at the next Trails meeting. Commissioner Cramer reviewed P & Z minutes stating that the architectural plan at Fairfield Hills will need to be changed since the West Meadow has wetlands and cannot be built on.

Task List – The commissioners reviewed the updated task list.

**OLD BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS**

Fairfield Hills Open Space

1. **Kiosks** – Commissioner Cramer said they need a lock for the kiosks. The commissioners discussed educational items that can be posted. Dan Holmes will be contacted regarding the three-year follow-up as part of the Barberry removal project.
2. **Committee on Fairfield Hills (Open Space)** – Commissioner Hovious shared concerns that the updated Fairfield Hills Master Plan document does not include the Conservation Commissions’ comments. The commissioners will review the document and meet to discuss this at a special meeting. Commissioner Cramer will send an email to Deborra Zukowski.

Easements – Commissioner Hovious said he and Commissioner Darrin researched some of the easements. Commissioner Wilson discussed the draft letter to Atty. Grogins regarding the commission’s request to review future conservation easements . She will meet with George Benson before sending it out.

90 Hattertown Road – Commissioner Wilson opened a discussion regarding the acceptance of a Fee in Lieu of open space. She will find out more information about this.

## **SUBCOMMITTEES**

Open Space Inventory and Maintenance Subcommittee – Commissioner Hovious provided a demonstration on how he reviews open space files and how he uses the GIS system to gather information.

### Education Subcommittee

1. **Development of Website** – Commissioner Wilson will speak with Mr. Sibley regarding the software needed for the website.
2. **Pamphlet on Wetlands** – Commissioner Astarita handed out a draft of the tri-fold Wetlands pamphlet and asked all commissioners to review it and provide feedback.

### Invasives Subcommittee

1. **Invasives at Transfer Station** – Commissioner Wilson showed pictures of the signs at the transfer station. Residents will be asked not to bring invasives there if they have berries or flowers. The signs at the transfer station will need to be adjusted since they show Barberry with berries on them.
2. **Bamboo** – Commissioner Wilson said the proposed Bill on Bamboo has been referred to the Office of Fiscal Analysis. She will keep an eye on this and update the commission on its progress.

POCD Subcommittee – Item tabled.

Open Space Acquisition Subcommittee – No update.

Al's Trail – Commissioner Hovious said he noticed new signs on the trail near the Waste Water Treatment Plant. It appears that work has been done on the trail as well.

**STAFF REPORT** – Item tabled.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Hovious motioned to go into Executive Session at 9:19 pm. Commissioner Cramer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Hazen