

**Conservation Commission**  
**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – May 13, 2013 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT**

**Present:** Ann Astarita, Mary Gaudet-Wilson, Joe Hovious and Marj Cramer; **Absent:** Bill Darrin and 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 7:15 pm

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Hovious motioned to approve the minutes of April 23, 2013. Ms. Astarita seconded the motion. The changes are as follows: Under Committee on Fairfield Hills, change “Lila” to “Lilla”; First page, last paragraph, change “...Julia Wasserman’s request that the Town removes invasives ...” to “... Julia Wasserman’s request to Town Officials that invasives be removed ...”; Second page under Open Space Inventory and Maintenance Subcommittee, second paragraph, change “Commissioners Astarita, Wilson and Hovious walked the open space ..” to “Commissioners Astarita, Wilson and Hovious walked and marked the open space ...”. The minutes were approved as amended.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

Review of Other Commissions – It was noted that Inland Wetlands made a decision on the Point o Rocks Road application determination (see “Conservation Easements” below).

Task List –The commissioners reviewed the task list. Mr. Hovious will work with Ms. Hazen to update the document. Ms. Astarita will create an email address for the commission, which will be placed on the Town’s website and used in handouts.

Open Position – Ms. Wilson discussed some interest from individuals to be on the commission.

Summer Schedules – Ms. Wilson said that due to vacations, the summer schedule may be lightened. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS AND ACTION ITEMS**

Fairfield Hills Open Space

1. **Kiosks** – No update.
2. **Committee on Fairfield Hills (Open Space)** – No update.

Conservation Easements – A memo was sent to George Benson asking that procedures be changed so the commission would have the opportunity to evaluate any issues on properties with existing conservation easements. It was previously requested that the commission be informed of any new proposed conservation easements. The commission then discussed the proposed work on easements and the overall parameters of conservation easements. Mr. Hovious presented a template for a database to track all easements.

Earth Day / Duck Race – Commissioners Wilson, Darrin and Henderson manned the display at the Earth Day event and said it was a very successful.

## **SUBCOMMITTEES**

Open Space Inventory and Maintenance Subcommittee – The commissioners discussed the updates to the open space inventory list. Commissioner Astarita walked the Great Ring Road open space with Mike Carey from the Health District during his inspection to check on the sewage odor.

### Education Subcommittee

1. **Development of Website** – Ms. Wilson spoke with Mr. Benson regarding the software needs of the website. There was a request for the student edition of Dreamweaver. Ms. Wilson spoke with Mr. Benson for approval.
2. **Pamphlet on Wetlands** – Ms. Astarita made revisions to the pamphlet and will email it to the commissioners.

### Invasives Subcommittee

1. **Invasives at Transfer Station** – Ms. Wilson said the flyer is finalized. They will be made available at the Transfer Station, the Library, and Land Use. A request has been made to The Bee to run a story on the invasives bin at the Transfer Station. A request to “Voices” was also made for publicity.
2. **Bamboo** – Ms. Wilson said the Bamboo bill is still making its way through the legislative process. The Bee has been asked to run a story on this as well.
3. **Inspections of Private Properties** – Ms. Wilson said she and Holly Kocet did one invasive inspection for a private landowner.
4. **Flyer of Common Invasives** – Ms. Wilson shared a flyer on common invasives to be distributed by real estate agents and left at various offices in Town (Transfer Station, Library, Land Use, Parks & Rec, etc.).
5. **Presentation at Roxbury Meeting** – Ms. Wilson said there were 40 participants at the May 5<sup>th</sup> public meeting on invasives in Roxbury. The commission’s PowerPoint presentation was modified for Roxbury. The event was hosted by the Roxbury Conservation Commission.

POCD Subcommittee – The commissioners had a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed changes to the commission’s submission to Planning and Zoning on the POCD. Modifications will be sent to Lilla Dean.

Al’s Trail – Ms. Wilson, Pat Barkman and Chris Fadus did some invasive removal on Al’s Trail. Ms. Wilson requested a work order through Rob Sibley for Parks and Rec. to maintain the trail. Mr. Hovious discussed a letter to be sent to the editor of The Bee discussing how Al’s Trail is not suitable for use as a bike trail. The main concerns stated are erosion, walking trail damage, and damage to tree roots and plant life.

**STAFF REPORT** – None

**OTHER** – The commissioners discussed a resident’s concern regarding lowered water levels along Boggs Hill Road. Ms. Astarita said there has been a history of water levels rising there, mostly due to beaver dams, that cause potential issues for emergency vehicles. In the past Public Works has had to use equipment (for safety reasons) to clean out the drainage area. They will be contacted to see if they work has been done by them recently.

After no further discussion, Ms Cramer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 pm. Ms. Astarita seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Hazen