

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting – April 14, 2014 @ 7:00 pm**  
**Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT**

**Present:** Ann Astarita, Bill Darrin, Joe Hovious and Karlyn Sturmer; **Not Present:** Steven Gogliettino;  
**Staff Present:** Tammy Hazen

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Public Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – No members of the public were present.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None noted.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Ms. Astarita motioned to approve the minutes of the March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 regular meeting. Mr. Darrin seconded the motion. Changes noted: Under NCC Strategic Plan, add “The commission discussed reviewing the strategic plan with the Director of Land Use and the First Selectman”; and under Earth Day, do not italicize the wording.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**Slate of Officers:** Mr. Hovious motioned to nominate Ann Astarita as Chair. Mr. Darrin seconded the motion and all were in favor. Ms. Astarita motioned to add the nomination of a Vice-Chair to the Agenda. Mr. Darrin seconded the motion and all were in favor. Ms. Sturmer motioned to nominate Bill Darrin as Secretary. Ms. Astarita seconded the motion and all were in favor. Ms. Astarita then motioned to nominate Joe Hovious as Vice-Chair. Mr. Darrin seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**Review of Other Commissions:** The commissioners reviewed items mentioned in minutes of other boards. Mr. Darrin said P & Z discussed rezoning a small section of the property at Pocono and Mt. Pleasant Roads (Toll Brothers).

**Budget:** Ms. Astarita said that she and Mr. Gogliettino met with the First Selectman and George Benson to discuss the commission gaining supervisory authority over certain open space parcels and obtaining a line item in the budget for work needed to be done on open space. The commission will meet with Mr. Benson prior to going before the Board of Finance, the budget committee and the Legislative Council. Ms. Astarita will create a draft Mission Statement for the commission’s review. The commission will work on a proposal for work scope (definition of work the commission wants to accomplish on open space) and a budget request list (estimation of costs). Mr. Hovious said an existing list can be reviewed, scaled down, and have estimated costs added. The First Selectman encouraged the commission to meet with Parks and Rec and the trails committee. Ms. Hazen is to research the printing costs for the materials needed for Earth Day.

**Website:** Tabled

**Grants:** No update.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Task List:** Ms. Astarita reviewed the task list with the commissioners.

- (a) **Fairfield Hills** – See Meadow Initiative.
- (b) **Open Space Inventory** – Mr. Hovious said he found another parcel that should not be listed on the inventory sheet.
- (c) **Meadow Initiative** –The map for the High Meadow has been recorded (Map #8194) in the Town Clerk's office. The declaration needs to be added. Ms. Astarita will find out the status of the draft declaration and will bring it to the commission for review and approval. Ms. Sturmer said she attended a talk on native plants at Session Woods. She asked the speaker if he could meet with the Conservation Commission to walk the meadows. The commissioners are interested so she will contact him to set up a time.
- (d) **Earth Day** – Ms. Sturmer discussed the information that will be available at the booth, including information on open space, invasives, native plants, recycling and invasive disposal at the transfer station.

**NCC Strategic Plan:** Mr. Hovious reviewed the final draft. Other than a few minor grammatical changes, everyone agreed it is complete.

**DoA Transfer:** No discussion.

## **SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Invasives:** The Barberry contract for the West Meadow is complete, as per Dan Holmes.

**Legislative:** No update.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Mr. Darrin motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:19 pm to discuss open space. Ms. Astarita seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Darrin motioned to adjourn Executive Session at 9:42 pm, which was seconded by Mr. Hovious and unanimously approved.

Mr. Hovious motioned to approve the Declaration\* document concerning the High and East Meadows (\*which is now superseded due to the map discrepancy). Mr. Darrin seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

Ms. Astarita motioned to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Darrin. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Tammy Hazen