

Town of Stonington Conservation Commission  
Minutes of a Special Meeting held on August 13, 2007  
Human Services Building, 166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

**1. Call to order:** Called to order by Chairman Simm at 7:05 PM. Commission members also in attendance were Cole, Bell, and Herbst. Baldwin arrived at 7:10 PM. Swenarton, Lyons and Dewire were absent. Gracelyn Guyol - Stonington Garden Club, Sarah Blair – Borough Tree Warden and Burgess, State Rep. Diana Urban, and an additional member of the public, were present.

**2. Meeting with Stonington Garden Club regarding Tree Preservation Program.**

Discussed a plan to designate the top 250-300± trees on Town right-of-ways and property and designate for preservation. Need to establish criteria, make list with collected attributes including photograph of each one. The Garden Club voted unanimously to conduct project and have formed a five person committee to conduct study and pay for a study (funds subject to approval by the Garden Club). Members are: Kate Love, Nealy Dickinson, Lois Cole and Nancy Wells. Suggested criteria were discussed: measure the diameter 4-feet of the ground with a 24-inch minimum. The Conservation Commission is to identify schools, vacant parcels and parks for the Garden Club. New England Geosystems conducted a test run of a planned tree inventory for the Borough. Among the attributes they collected were:

- Photos (near and far)
- Tree ID (assigned by collector)
- Species
- Diameter
- Height
- Crown size
- Special designation (if any)
- Diameter at Breast Height (DBH, about 4-feet)
- Condition (Good, Poor)
- Close proximity to utility poles (Y/N)
- Distance from curb
- Overhead lines (Y/N)
- GPS date
- Location (Lat/Lon).

It was suggested that the public should be invited to submit nominees. Baldwin will contact Jason Jones, Town Information Technology, to set up an email account (done. Commission email address is: conservationcommission@stonington-ct.gov)

**3. Meeting with Rep. Diana Urban and Sen. Andrew Maynard regarding planning for Open Space and Land Preservation Forum.**

Rep. Urban described the proposed open space forum for North Stonington and Stonington with a particular focus on farmland preservation. Would bring together townsfolk with DEP, Department of Agriculture to review what is available: the current farmland preservation programs, tax advantages of the donation of easements. DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy might be available to speak. A date in the last week in October was suggested; Rep. Urban to check with the Commissioner's office. A commission member said that the meeting should be specific—to help see what specifically needs to be done. Frederick B. "Fritz" Gahagan, an attorney with Waller, Smith & Palmer, P.C who is a "lecturer on Law of Land Conservation for The Nature Conservancy, Local Land Trusts and Extension Services," was suggested as speaker.

**4. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 PM (Bell).

Submitted by Ben Baldwin, Secretary

Approved at a regular meeting of the Conservation Commission on 8/27/2007