

Town of Stonington Conservation Commission

Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on March 24, 2008

Stonington Police Station Meeting Room, 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

1. Call to order: Called to order by Secretary Baldwin 6:15 PM. Commission members also in attendance were Swenarton, Bell, and Herbst. Town Planner Brynes, Director of Planning Haase, and members of the public were present.

2. Review of Town Developments and Proposals:

2a. *Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals.* Peter Gardner, surveyor, presented his preliminary conceptual subdivision at 12 Geiser Street in Mystic between Hatch Street and Hewitt Road (M-B-L 161-9-3, 168,903 sf, zone RM-20). Discussion noted that the parcel is better served by the Fee In Lieu of Open Space rather than a set-aside. Herbst said that she would like to see trees preserved.

No other pending applications. Cole arrived at 6:20 PM.

3. Open Space Committee

3a. *Discussion on parcels for preservation in Pawcatuck – Ben.* Herbst said that Mr. Mularski of Skirig would be attending tonight to discuss the acquisition of his 23-acre property off Johnson Street in Pawcatuck as open space.

Chairman Simm arrived at 6:30 PM.

3b. *Discussion on possible referendum for open space bonding.* Haase mentioned that the State grant round had been announced for matching grants.

4. Old Business

4a. *Review of Open Space Development Regulations.* Haase presented proposed changes. The Open Space Plan could recommend lots to receive OSD regulations. It was also mentioned that a baseline study of existing conditions is important whenever open space is received to be held. Haase will return with suggested changes incorporated into his draft.

MOTION: Move to item 4G (Cole, Bell). Passed unanimously.

4g. *Discussion of Future Land Preservation Forum at StoneRidge.* A follow-up of last November's forum will be held in late April. Simm to follow up with StoneRidge residents present. MOTION: Conservation Commission is to sponsor the forum (Bell, Herbst). Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Move to item 3a (Herbst, Swenarton). Passed unanimously.

Mr. Mularski described his offer of the 23-acre parcel at the foot of Johnson Street and Oakwood Avenue. He is to send a letter with offering price and map in order for the Commission to apply for a matching grant by June.

4b. *Mystic River Dam Committee-* No discussion.

4c. *Discussion of Recommended Procedures for Town's Acceptance of Conservation Easements and Open Space –* saved for April.

4d. *Discussion on Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees.* Elm at 32 Willow Street had been removed. Bell and Baldwin to attend Pawcatuck Streetscape meeting at Downtown Creamery re: street trees.

4e. *Discussion on Anguilla Brook Preserve Transfer –* A town meeting is coming up for the transfer's approval.

4f. *Discussion on PA -490 Open Space Preservation –* saved for April meeting.

4h. *Discussion of Waivers in Land Use Regulations –* saved for April meeting.

4i. *Discussion of Commission Honors Award.* It was asked if this would be a Conservation Commission or Town award planned for Whit Davis. MOTION: The Conservation Commission recommends honoring Davis by planting a beech tree at the Stanton-Davis Homestead Museum.

5. New Business

The March 18th Planning and Zoning meeting on the Route 1 Study was called “outrageous.”
Correspondence received from Nancy D’Estang regarding Mystic transportation plan.
Meeting with Westerly Conservation Commission to be discussed next month.

6. *Review of February 25, 2008 meeting minutes*- Saved for April meeting.

7. *Adjournment* - Motion to adjourn (Svenarton). Approved at 10:10 pm.

Submitted by Ben Baldwin, Secretary

Approved at a regular meeting of the Conservation Commission on 4/28/2008.