

Town of Stonington Conservation Commission

Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on April 28, 2008

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

**1. Call to order:** Called to order by Vice Chairman Cole at 6:11 p.m. Commission members also in attendance were Swenarton, Bell, Baldwin, Lyons, and Herbst; Dewire was absent. Town Planner Brynes and Carlene Donnarummo were present.

**2. Review of Town Developments and Proposals:**

**2a.** *Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals.* None. Town Planner Brynes said that the 26-lot subdivision on Jeffrey Road is progressing through the permitting process and that the number of subdivision applications has dropped off.

Chairman Simm arrived at 6:25 p.m.

**3. Open Space Committee**

**3a.** *Discussion on parcels for preservation in Pawcatuck – Ben.* Herbst said that she had spoken with Mr. Mularski of Skirig today and he will send offering letter re: his 23-acre property off Johnson Street in Pawcatuck. Applications for state matching grants are due on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Baldwin described a number of properties being offered for sale throughout town.

**3b.** *Discussion on possible referendum for open space bonding.* Not discussed.

**4. Old Business**

**4a.** *Review of Open Space Development Regulations.* Brynes distributed drafts with incorporated changes.

**4b.** *Mystic River Dam Committee.* Bell to determine ownership of property that provides access to the dam from New London Turnpike.

**4c.** *Discussion of Recommended Procedures for Town's Acceptance of Conservation Easements and Open Space.* Not discussed.

**4d.** *Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees.* Pawcatuck streetscape plan, including removal of memorial trees, was discussed. A motion was made to form a tree committee with Bell as chairman, Baldwin and Donnarummo.

**4e.** *Discussion of Anguilla Brook Preserve Transfer.* Town attorney says that another public hearing may be needed.

**4f.** *Discussion of PA-490 Open Space Preservation.* Herbst to investigate; issue needs a champion such as Selectman's office.

**4g.** *Discussion of Future Land Preservation Forum at Stoneridge.* On hold; to be held after May.

**4h.** *Discussion of Waivers In Land Use Regulations.* Awaiting ruling from town attorney.

**4i.** *Discussion of Commission Honors Award.* In the works for a tree on Davis property.

**4j.** *Discussion of Terra Firma Farm.* Reimbursement of paid taxes might be possible. Rep. Urban has met with Connecticut Landmarks' head, but landlord-tenant relationship has not improved, says Swenarton.

**5. New Business**

**5a.** *Discussion of Updates to Plan of Conservation and Development.* Lyons reported on Implementation Committee meeting which included discussion of open space subdivision regulation, buildable land regulations (new mandate needed), Williams Beach status, Valenti's new storage building, Mystic Cycle Centre building. Overall, 20% has been implemented.

**5b.** *Discussion of FY07-08 Budget.* MOTION: Earmark for Naturescapes \$1,950 for Barn Island and Spellman Park fieldtrips plus \$200 for supplies (Swenarton, Bell). Passed unanimously.

Cole reported that Silvias Pond Conservation Association will be an intervener in Pequot Golf Course's application to withdraw 150,000 gallons per day from the Stony Brook aquifer. MOTION: The Conservation Commission will join the Silvias Pond Conservation Association as an intervener if it would be advantageous to their cause. Their attorney, Frank Eppinger, is to be asked.

Swenarton departed at 9:15 p.m.

**6.** *Review of February 25, 2008 meeting minutes-* Motion to accept (Bell, Herbst). Passed unanimously.

*Review of March 24, 2008 meeting minutes-* Motion to accept as modified (Bell, Herbst). Passed unanimously.

**7. Adjournment** - Motion to adjourn (Bell). Approved at 9:30 p.m. Submitted by Ben Baldwin, Secretary

Approved at a meeting of the Conservation Commission 5/27/2008.