

Town of Stonington Conservation Commission

Minutes of a Special Meeting held on June 30, 2008
Stonington Police Station Meeting Room, 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

1. Call to order: Called to order by Chairman Simm at 6:35 p.m. Commission members also in attendance were Herbst, Bell, Cole and Baldwin. Lyons arrived at 8:00 p.m. Swenarton and Dewire were absent. Town Planner Brynes was present. Members of the public included Carlene Donnarummo, Eric Janney, Chris Rixon, Charles Storrow and Coleman Ives.

2. Review of Town Developments and Proposals:

2a. PZ0816RA Sea Research Foundation, Inc. - Zoning Regulation Amendment to create a Marine Research and Education District (MRED) in Section 1.1 and add proposed MRED Regulations to Article VII as Section 7.22. Brynes distributed a "Statement as to why the Text Amendment is being pursued" and proposed text. Eric Janney presented the regulation amendment. Discussion was held on whether the amendment should be site specific, a map amendment along with a master plan will be applied for later. MOTION: The Conservation Commission requests that regulation be specific to the land along Coogan Boulevard and Maritime Drive (Cole, Bell). Passed unanimously.

2b. Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals.

PZ0360SD SUP & GPP Meehan Group, LLC - Consideration of conceptual alternate layout for approved forty-eight lot cluster subdivision. Property located on Whitehall Ave., Jerry Browne Rd., & Pequot Trail, Old Mystic. Maps 165 & 148, Blocks 5 & 3, Lots 9&14, 1&3. Zones RA-40 & RR-80. The application is going to the IWWC. Replacement of the loop road with two cul-de-sacs connected by a fire line will eliminate a stormwater basin in the open space. The dedicated open space will go to the Stonington Land Trust; they have stated they prefer a 12-foot road instead of a 30-foot road. MOTION: As per our comments of April 23, 2007, the Conservation Commission strongly recommends the narrower fire road rather than the standard 30-foot wide road to substantially lessen the impact on the open space, stream and wetlands. This will eliminate the disruption of an additional stormwater management basin (Herbst, Bell). Passed unanimously.

3. Open Space Subcommittee

3a. Discussion on parcels for preservation in Pawcatuck. Herbst said that Skirig sold its 23-acre property off Johnson Street in Pawcatuck to a private party; Verzillo property is long gone.

4. Old Business

4a. Mystic River Dam Committee. No change.

4b. Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees. Girth is a factor so that the highway department does not take down large trees; documentation is needed.

4c. Discussion of Anguilla Brook Preserve Transfer. Will go to Town meeting in July or August; sign needed.

4d. Discussion of Future Land Preservation Forum at Stoneridge. To be held at 7:30 p.m. on July 1st.

4e. Discussion of Waivers In Land Use Regulations. Not discussed.

4f. Discussion of Commission Honors Award. To be discussed after the forum at StoneRidge.

4g. Discussion of Terra Firma Farm. TFF is in contact with the CT Landmarks board.

4h. Discussion of Updates to Plan of Conservation and Development. Implementation Committee to meet in a couple of weeks.

Lyons arrived.

4i. Discussion of FY07-08 Budget and Expenditures. A recap of expenditures in the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Some money remained unspent; upcoming year is expected to have a lower budget balance and higher costs for field trips. MOTION: Expend \$200 as a contribution to the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center to assist with summer camp scholarship, assuming the budget is passed (Lyons, Herbst). Passed unanimously.

4j. Discussion of HI-60 Zoning Regulations. Not yet available for review.

4k. Discussion of Alternative Energy Regulations and Public Information and Participation. To be discussed next month.

5. New Business

- Cole suggested regulation or registration of domestic automatic sprinkler irrigation that allow for abnormal use of reservoir water. Perhaps regulations could require that such systems have moisture sensitive controls to be water-saving.
- MOTION: to go to item 4h (Lyons, Herbst). Passed unanimously. Lyons reported that the June POCD Implementation Committee meeting discussed implementing a demolition delay ordinance and an underground tank ordinance to remove underground residential tanks.
- The regular pumping of septic tanks was discussed; it is unknown whether the Town Sanitarian enforces this rule.
- Bell reported that the fee in-lieu of open space account has a balance of about \$206,000 with about \$160,000 due upon sale of the lot.
- Cole reported that Silvia's Pond Conservation Association did file for intervener status in regard to the Pequot Golf Course diversion application to DEP.
- Stonington Land Trust annual meeting turnout was good. Chris Littlefield of the Nature Conservancy from Block Island spoke; Simm said that he spoke about a new study that finds the Stonington coast to be unique in the northeast due to its many streams.
- Lyons attended a recent alternative energy fair in Rhode Island.

6. Review of May 27, 2008 meeting minutes - Motion to accept as modified (Bell, Herbst). Passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn (Bell). Approved at 9:13 p.m.

Submitted by Ben Baldwin, Secretary

Approved at a regular meeting on July 28, 2008.