

May 18, 2009
Town of Stonington
Conservation Commission
Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Call to order by Vice chairman Stuart Cole at 7:07. Attending were Jennifer Herbst, Tim Bell, Sheila Lyons. Chairman Stanton Simms arrived at 7:16. Absent were Ben Baldwin, Bob Dewire, and Keith Brynes.

A motion was made and seconded to address item 2 e - Preliminary Review of four lot subdivision of property located at 186 River Road, Pawcatuck, on the corner of Mary Hall Road. Bruce Kelley was represented by Attorney Ted Ladwig. Property in the R-20 zone (mostly). History of the property, formerly owned by the late Ross Aiello; his children live in the large house and others surrounding, a free split at the time. The property along River Road was sold in 1992 and the bank has foreclosed on the 3 acre site. Bruce Kelley is the new owner. He intends to have 3 lots running along River Rd but getting their water from Mary Hall Road and leaving 20,000 feet of Open Space if their request for a fee in lieu of Open Space is approved. They noted that there is no contiguous open space abutting the land. Also noted is the fact that there are no wet lands on the property so the existing house that fronts on Mary Hall Road would have a flag lot green space as a back yard. A back lot would need 60,000 square feet and this land is 20,000. Bell motioned to approve the Fee in lieu, Herbst seconded, and all voted in favor.

Motion made by Lyons to discuss items 2d and 4h together because of the overlap in subject. Seconded by Herbst. 2h is "discussion of Alternative Energy Options for the Town - Helical Wind Turbine Study" led by commission member Stuart Cole who had worked on the Savonius, years back, which is advertised as converting the power of wind into torque on a rotating shaft. Cole was also familiar with the Darrieus Hoop. Hervie Lamb attended the meeting at the request of Jennifer Herbst.

Under item 2d PZ0913RA Pine Point School had made application for a 120 foot horizontal turbine under a CT State grant. The state has withdrawn the funds as there is no existing regulation in the Town of Stonington.

There followed discussion on the benefits of a new design being sold and installed by Hervie Lamb, www.mysticsolar.com. The machines can be as low as 8 feet, though they only produce half the power of the bladed variety.

Questions to be answered relate to wildlife impact, height, noise, vibration, flicker, fall zone. Lamb said that the one proposed for Pine Point, as an educational project, would sound like an air conditioner from 300 yards away. A much smaller one, the Helix vertical type, is being installed in North Stonington on Pendleton Hill Road, which will be a learning tool for Stonington people interested. Lamb explained that you need a building permit when wires come into the house; solar is under the aegis of the Electric company but there is nothing presently covering wind power, no regulation at all. PZC members were all negative in their feelings about the Pine Point proposal and the school has already installed extensive solar paneling. There is a windmill at Grasso Tech in Groton, also a school project, and plans for them at the high school and the landfill. It was suggested that we continue to study the subject and have discussions at future meetings. Lamb was invited to return to the June 22 regular meeting and to help work on a regulation.

Motion was made to return to the order of the agenda:

- a. PZ0907ZC Zone change and realignment of land on Taugwonk Road. P&Z continued their hearing on May 9 and it will be continued again on June 16. People spoke on both sides of the issue.
- b. PZ0911RA Zoning Regulations Text amendments. The commission previously considered this

matter and determined that there were too many proposed changes to be considered at once, which would be a burden on the commissioners. It was suggested that the issues be considered separately.

c. PZ0912RA Open Space Development commented on previously. Cole informed us that because of a shortage of funds in the state budget, stocking some of the local trout hatcheries will be discontinued.

Question: Can the Conservation Commission stock Anguilla Brook, on the old Peter Thacher Preserve? Why not? Carlene Donnarummo has researched this.

f. Any pending applications - one on Wolf Neck Road will be discussed at next meeting.

3a. Parcels for preservation in Pawcatuck and elsewhere - not discussed.

4. Old Business not discussed a. - HI-60 zoning regs; b. Revisions to NDD zoning regs; c. Mystic River Dam; d. Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees - need a list, a tree on 1-A cut down within the last week. Was it diseased?; e. Wequetequock cove water quality study not discussed; f. See 2a above, g - Not discussed; i - interest in the subject, suggestion for a Sustainable Green Commerce Committee, national interest now in organic produce.

5 New business: Bell reported that Eva Franchi owns 192 acres off Pequot Trail. Her late husband, the singer Sergio, had plans to develop part of the property but might be interested in the rest for Conservation purposes.

Owners of property on Palmer Neck Road, 16 acres want to preserve it. American Grasslands is interested in a salt hay easement. The town or the land trust might be able to purchase it.

Motion to adjourn made by Tim Bell at 9:40. All agreed.

Sheila Lyons, substitute Secretary

May 19, 2009

Approved at a regular meeting on 7/27/2009