

Town of Stonington Conservation Commission  
Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on June 28, 2010  
Police Station Community Meeting Room, 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

**1. Call to order:** Called to order by Vice Chairman Stuart Cole at 7:10 p.m. Commission members also in attendance were Ben Baldwin, Tim Bell, Sheila Lyons and Walter Grant. Chairman Stanton Simm arrived at 7:25 p.m. Members Jennifer Herbst and Bob Dewire were absent. Town Planner Keith Brynes was not present.

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

**2a.** *Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals.* None.

**3. Open Space Parcels**

**3a.** *Discussion of parcels for preservation.* Not discussed.

**4. Old Business**

**4a.** *Mystic River Dam Committee.* Tim Bell said that water flow seemed low.

**4b.** *Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees.*

- Bell said that he had inventoried a number of trees and that he would send Baldwin photos and data.
- Bell noted that a dead overhanging limb was removed from a tree opposite the Stonington Cemetery on North Main Street.
- Lyons noted that North Main Street does not look bare after the removal of trees last winter; much of the canopy is from trees on private land. Baldwin noted that the scenic road appears different with fewer roadside trees located between the roadway and walls.
- Baldwin said he attended UConn Cooperative Extension's Meskwaka Tree Project program on community or urban forestry at Connecticut College June 17-19 and felt it was very worthwhile and that others should consider applying. He passed around a book by instructors Bob Ricard and Glenn Dreyer, "Greening Connecticut Cities and Towns: Managing Public Trees and Community Forests."
- Baldwin noted that he saw today that the large oak and other trees have been cut at the Tractor Supply Company site at 335 Liberty Street.

Chairman Simm arrived.

**4c.** *Discussion of surface and drinking water quality issues.* Lyons attended the meeting/hearing on Aquarion's proposed rate increase on June 10th. It appears that large users of water pay a discounted rate and users of little water pay a higher rate and have a relatively high minimum charge. This rate scale does not appear to encourage conservation of this important resource. She said that the meeting was more of hearing with State commissioners receiving comments and there was no discussion. There will be 10 hearings throughout the state of which 5 will allow comments. The average water cost is proposed to increase to \$89 per quarter. Lyons asked about the status of the Noyes Avenue well which was apparently contaminated by the gas company property on Canal Street to the north. Simm stated his concern about cyanide contaminating the Pfizer Farm on Taugwonk Road and the fact the DEP only got involved once it had been notified by Pfizer. Lisa Whitman, a teacher at Stonington High School, has students who researched groundwater within the town who will make a presentation at the Conservation Commission's next meeting on 7/26/2010.

**4d.** *Discussion of alternative energy regulations.* Cole and Simm to review in preparation for the July meeting.

**4e.** *Discussion of potential regulation amendment to GBR-130 and RC-120 Zoning districts.* Not discussed; completed at the May meeting.

**5. New Business**

**5a.** Chairman Simm noted that he had reviewed a preliminary application with Town Planner Brynes for a rezoning of the existing 18-lot Mystic Hill subdivision.

**5b.** Current Gulf of Mexico and 1985 hurricane Gloria calamities discussed.

**5c.** Baldwin attended the CT DOT meeting on the \$5+ Million replacement of the Quana Duck Cove and Stony Brook bridges on Route 1. There will be substantial changes as they are converted from box culverts to spans with slopes cut back; trees will be cut. St. Mary's Cemetery has experienced erosion nearby.

**5d.** Baldwin noted that the parking lot of the Admiral's Cove shoreline public access has washed out and needs to be regraded. Simm asked how a certificate of occupancy had been issued and whether the public access had been transferred to the Town or State. Baldwin also noted that the nearby Town playground at Haley's Way had been damaged in the March 30th storm and the Recreation Commission reported that there is not enough funding from FEMA to perform repairs.

**5e.** The Stonington Land Trust annual meeting was held on 6/14/2010. Baldwin said that president Jim Smith had expressed interest in helping preserve the Franchi Estate and that he had told him that Bell had spoken within Eva Franchi on the issue.

**5f.** The Special Town Meeting of 6/30/2010 with its 9 items to be voted on was discussed. The land swap between the Town and the Putnams on Mistuxet Avenue appears controversial. It appears uncertain whether before and after values have been determined.

**5g.** Simm said that additional donation of \$200 was made to Avalonia Land Conservancy's Bedrock Fund and that the Finance Department needs an invoice from the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center for the \$200 donation for programs.

**5h.** A list of commissioners showed that Cole, Simm and Baldwin's current terms end on 7/31/2010.

**5b. Correspondence:**

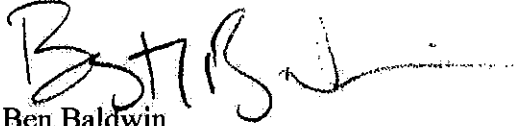
- Note of receipt of \$500 donation to The Stonington Land Trust, Inc. Land Acquisition Fund.
- Note of receipt of \$200 donation to Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc. Bedrock Fund for the Future Land Acquisition Fund.
- OLISP Coastal Permit #201001242-MG Mystic Shipyard, LLC at 18 Stafford Street
- OLISP Notice of Tentative Determination Application #201001652-MG Meryl Weiner for 149 Wamphassuc Point Road. Application notes an IWWC permit is required for a walkway.
- DEP's May/June 2010 *Connecticut Wildlife* magazine.
- The Nature Conservancy membership solicitation.
- Letters from two classes of third graders at the West Broad Street School thanking the Commission for the funded field trips to Spellman Park with Naturescapes. Chairman Simm read lively descriptions of students' experiences and proposed renewing the practice of posting the letters at Town Hall and issuing awards for the 'best' letter. Grant said that he would contact the teachers to see if this was possible and would form a group to select a letter.

**6. Review of May 24, 2010 draft minutes.**

MOTION: Approve with one change (Bell, Grant). Passed unanimously.

**7. Adjournment** - Motion to adjourn (Lyons). Approved at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Baldwin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Ben Baldwin**  
**Secretary, Town of Stonington Conservation Commission**

Approved at a regular meeting on 8/23/2010.