

Town of Stonington Conservation Commission  
Minutes of a Special Meeting held on June 11, 2012  
Mystic Middle School, 204 Mistuxet Avenue, Mystic, CT

**1. Call to order:** Chairman Stanton Simm called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. In attendance were Stuart Cole, Tim Bell, Sheila Lyons, and Walter Grant. Jim Friedlander arrived at 7:10 pm and Ben Baldwin at 7:12 pm. Member Bob Dewire and Town Planner Keith Brynes were absent.

**2. Executive Session - Discussion of Properties for Possible Open Space Preservation**

MOTION: To enter into executive session (Bell, Cole). Passed unanimously.

MOTION: To exit from executive session (Cole, Bell). Passed unanimously. The Commission exited from executive session at 8:05 pm and a 5 minute break was taken. Stanton Simm called the meeting to order again at 8:10 pm. Rick Newton, Bill Lyman and Joyce Fingerut were present.

MOTION: To move to item 6a (Bell, Friedlander). Passed unanimously.

**6a. New Business - Discussion of Scenic Road Ordinance**

The 1990 Ordinance was read out loud. Simm said that the Highway Department has not been following the ordinance in regard to obtaining permission from the Planning and Zoning Commission when changes are not minor. The recent widening and addition of curbing on Sommers Lane were not minor and should have been brought to the PZC. Bill Lyman asked why the Highway Department didn't go through the process after acknowledging that the work was not minor. It was noted that the work was undertaken at the behest of one abutting property owner when Stony Brook washed out a portion of scenic Sommers Lane. Scenic roads are identified on page 7-13 of the 2004 POCD. Changes to the ordinance were recommended to allow the PZC to force the Highway Department to follow it.

MOTION: The Chairman will request a joint meeting with the PZC to request a change in the way the scenic road ordinance is enforced to require the Highway Department to come before the Conservation Commission for a recommendation (Friedlander, Cole). Passed unanimously.

MOTION: Add a statement to previous motion that the addition of curbing should be in consultation with the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission because of the concentration of water flow (Cole, Bell). Passed unanimously.

Rick Newton mentioned the issue of requiring open space set-asides transfers before permits.

MOTION: To move to item 4a (Cole, Bell). Passed unanimously.

**4. Open Space Parcels**

**4a. Discussion of parcels for preservation.** MOTION: The chairman should also request a joint meeting about the inclusion of drainage and water detention structures in open space parcels and clarification of when and at what point should open space parcels be transferred to a land trust (Cole, Bell). Passed unanimously. It was noted that Town regulations require the transfer before permitting.

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

**3a. Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals.** None received. Jim Friedlander departed.

**5. Old Business**

**5a. Mystic River Dam Committee.** Nothing new to discuss.

**5b. Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees.** Lou DiCesare, Highway Supervisor, has requested the tree list.

**5c. Discussion of Progress on Plan of Conservation and Development's Open Space Plan.** Walter Grant said that the PZC had yet to decide on members of the 2014 POCD committee.

**5d. Discussion of Open Space and Conservation Easement Transfers for Ongoing and Past Subdivisions.** None discussed.

**5e. Any Other Old Business.** None.

**6. New Business**

**6b. Discussion of current fiscal year budget and expenditures** - The following expenditures or encumbrances were proposed:

\$57	Walter Grant meeting travel reimbursement
\$100	Connecticut Land Conservation Council
\$100	The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter
\$100	Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association
\$168	Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, for programs
\$250	Avalonia Land Conservancy
\$700	Stonington Land Trust
\$75	Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions
\$1,900	Naturescapes, student educational fieldtrips
\$650	Buses, student educational fieldtrips
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\$4,100	Total

Submissions were required at the Finance Office by May 31st, but the Commission received a special dispensation. Simm said that perhaps Stonington Land Trust and the Conservation Commission could raise funds for field trips for all schools to Terra Firma Farm next year.

**6c. Discussion of approved Cluster Subdivisions** - Not discussed.

**6d. Correspondence** — Connecticut Wildlife magazine received.

**7. Review of 5/14/2012 minutes**

Not reviewed.

**8. Adjournment.** Bell made a motion to adjourn at 9:55 pm.

Minutes submitted by



Ben Baldwin  
Secretary, Town of Stonington Conservation Commission

Approved at a regular meeting of the Commission on 8/27/2012