



**TOWN OF WESTBROOK  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Mulvey Municipal Center  
866 Boston Post Rd.  
Westbrook, CT 06498  
Tel. 399-3046 – FAX 399-2084

**Westbrook Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 18, 2019 7:00 p.m.  
Mulvey Municipal Center - South Meeting Room  
(Unapproved)**

**Members Present**

Marty Marx, Chairman; Sheridan Bauman, Randy Bell, Molly Bernstein (arrived at 7:10 p.m.), Mike Oryl and John Rie

**Members Absent**

Chris Bazinet and Morgan Allen

**Staff Present**

Heidi Wallace, Wetlands Enforcement Officer  
Kathy King, Recording Clerk

**Call to Order**

M. Marx called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Minutes- May 21, 2019**

**MOTION:** to approve the Conservation Commission's Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2019 as presented. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Oryl, R. Bell, S. Bauman and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

**Bills:**

**MOTION:** to approve the May time sheet from Kathy King for \$131.40. **MADE:** by M. Oryl; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Oryl, R. Bell, S. Bauman and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

**MOTION:** to reimburse Kathy King for \$220.00 for stamps for general office supplies. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Oryl, R. Bell, S. Bauman and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

**MOTION:** to reimburse Gus Frank Marx for \$66.77 for landscaping supplies. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Oryl, R. Bell, S. Bauman and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

**Correspondence:**

The following correspondence was received: Winter/Spring edition of The Habitat with a nice article remembering former Westbrook Conservation Commission Chairman Tom ODell, 5/28/2019 Zoning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes and April and May 2019 Inland Wetland Agents Reports.

**MOTION:** to add under New Business “Westbrook Garden Club and Conservation Commission collaboration for planting on Salt Island Overlook”. **MADE:** by M. Bernstein; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Oryl, R. Bell, S. Bauman, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

**MOTION:** to add under New Business “Discuss Zoning Change along the Patchogue River.” **MADE:** by M. Bernstein; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Oryl, R. Bell, S. Bauman, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

**Chairman’s Report:** Review current budget actuals

The end of the fiscal year is June 30, 2019. There is a surplus in ground maintenance and other professional services.

**Open Space Projects:**

**Kirtland Landing – John: update and status**

J. Rie reported that they had a scoping meeting with the public, and they had a kick off meeting with the contractor. They will clean up the property, re-do the ramp and re-organize the parking spaces. They did a survey of the property. The neighbor has a shed which is located on Town property and has been for over 100 years. Therefore, it is grandfathered.

**Sciongay Property – Heidi: update and status**

There is nothing new to report.

**Toby Hill Phase VIII grant application – Heidi: update and status**

There is nothing new to report.

**New Signage for Horse Hill Woods – Randy: update and status**

R. Bell submitted the order for the sign. The bill will be received for submission into this year’s budget. Summer interns will help R. Bell with installing the sign posts.

**Summer Internships – Marty: update and status**

The summer interns have been concentrating on Salt Island and the Town Property. They are going to start on Chapman Mill Pond very soon. They will also be supporting the Westbrook Garden Club when they need it. The interns are doing great work.

**Bicycle Policy: Sheridan: update and status**

There is nothing new to report.

**Preserve Committee – Sheridan: update**

The last meeting was cancelled. There is nothing new to report.

**New Business:**

**Westbrook Garden Club and Conservation Commission collaboration for planting on Salt Island Overlook**

Deb Rie presented on behalf of the Westbrook Garden Club. There is a salt meadow being planted on Salt Island Overlook. The Garden Club is improving the upland area on the border of the Salt Island Overlook to Oxford Academy. As they cleared invasive plants this past spring, they de-nuded an area which now needs plantings.

They are working with Kathy Connolly from Speaking of Landscapes. They have put in paths for the meadow. In the upland area, they'd like to plant shrubs. The estimate they have from Torrison for plantings and the cost of labor is \$5,294.00. The materials are \$3,039.00, and the labor is \$2,255.00.

**MOTION:** to pay \$3,039.00 for materials for the Westbrook Garden Club's plantings for Salt Island Overlook under the Ground Maintenance line item in the budget, and to pay \$2,255.00 for labor for Torrison under Other Professional Services for a total amount of \$5,294.00. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by M. Bernstein; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Oryl, R. Bell, S. Bauman, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

**Discuss Zoning Change on the Patchogue River**

D. Rie explained that there is currently a proposal to make a zoning change to a small area along the Patchogue River which is currently medium density residential, half acre lots. Currently, both sides of the Patchogue River are buffered with medium density residential zones. The proposal is to change the small area to commercial because there are 3 commercial properties. The goal of the zoning map changes is to clean up and clarify the zoning map so that every property would be in only one zone and there will be consistent zoning throughout town.

D. Rie said the change along the Patchogue would be in conflict in many ways with the Plan of Conservation and Development. There is also concern about river habitat. This area has wetlands.

There was discussion about why the area is being considered for commercial instead of medium density residential.

The Conservation Commission would like to see the change be medium density residential to match the other parcels around it.

**MOTION:** to recommend to the Zoning Commission that the properties identified as Book/Page 342/428, 342/425 and 330/276 that are split between MDR and NCD be changed to MDR to protect the area along the Patchogue River and to align with the Plan of Conservation and Development. **MADE:** by S. Bauman; **SECONDED:** by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Oryl, R. Bell, S. Bauman, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

**Old Business:**

M. Marx will purchase an oak sapling and stone in memory of former Conservation Commission member Bob Peterson. M. Marx will arrange to have a small ceremony in Bob's honor to plant the tree and place the stone before the end of the summer.

**Reports:** Planning, Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Harbor Management Commission, Town Center, Preserve Ad Hoc Committee, and Harbor Management Commission

J. Rie reported that the dredging has been done. The new Harbormaster has started, and hopefully he will be appointed by the governor soon. The buoys are back in. Some moorings have been removed. Mooring owners have been notified of the new mooring registration policy.

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the South Meeting Room of the Mulvey Municipal Center, 866 Boston Post. MADE: by J. Rie; SECONDED: by M. Oryl; VOTED IN FAVOR: M. Oryl, J. Rie, S. Bauman, M. Bernstein, R. Bell; OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None; APPROVED: 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathleen King  
Recording Clerk