



TOWN OF WESTBROOK

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

866 BOSTON POST ROAD
WESTBROOK, CONNECTICUT 06498

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Westbrook Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 19, 2016 7:00 p.m.
Mulvey Municipal Center - South Meeting Room
(Approved)

Members Present

Tom ODell, Randy Bell, Mike Oryl, Bob Peterson, Marty Marx

Excused Absences

John Rie

Don Harger

Ralph DePonte, IWWC representative

Call to Order

Chairman Tom ODell called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Special Guest: Terri Potvin, Natural Resources Conservation Academy Student

Will review her project, Chapman Mill Pond Vernal Pool Long-Term Monitoring Program

T. Potvin is currently a sophomore at Middletown Magnet High School. Her father, Richard Potvin, from the US Fish and Wildlife Service was also present.

T. Potvin explained that she attended the Natural Resources Conservation Academy at the University of CT, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. She handed out her Chapman Mill Pond Vernal Pool Monitoring Manual which explains in detail the purpose of the monitoring, the importance of vernal pools, data collection, species identification, and threats to vernal pools. The Manual is to assist the Conservation Commission with long term monitoring of the vernal pools.

She created a power point presentation defining vernal pools, how global change affects vernal pools and explaining the long term monitoring program she's worked on. She'll be looking for changes and trends which she will report to the Conservation Commission.

T. ODell said the Chapman Mill Pond vernal pool used to always be wet, but over the last 2 years, during drought, it has dried out. This has to do in part with how the vernal pool is fed. T. ODell questioned whether or not this could be global change affecting the vernal pool causing it to dry up.

There are a number of tutorials included in the manual, and there are apps that can be accessed by iPhone. T. Potvin would like to put her manual on the Conservation Commission's web site. Commissioners agreed this was a good idea.

T. Potvin will be setting up a meeting with the Westbrook High School's Environmental Club to invite Westbrook High School students to get involved with this monitoring project.

M. Marx suggested Commissioners review the information on I-naturalist every month.

Minutes- December 15, 2015

MOTION: to approve the Conservation Commission's Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2015 as presented. MADE: by B. Peterson; SECONDED: by M. Marx; VOTED IN FAVOR: B. Peterson, M. Marx, M. Oryl, R. Bell; OPPOSED: none; ABSTAINED: none: APPROVED: 4-0-0.

MOTION: to pay \$122.00 to Recording Clerk Kathleen King. MADE: by M. Oryl; SECONDED: by M. Marx; VOTED IN FAVOR: B. Peterson, M. Marx, M. Oryl, R. Bell; OPPOSED: none; ABSTAINED: none: APPROVED: 4-0-0.

Correspondence

The following were received: The Inland Wetland's Agent's report for October/November 2015, the 1/5/2016 Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission's Regular Meeting Minutes and the 12/15/2015 Zoning Commission's Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was discussed under the agenda items.

Open Space Program

Preservation/Acquisition

- **Sciongay:** update

DEEP is waiting for two appraisals of the remaining Sciongay property. When they receive the appraisals, negotiations will begin to purchase the property. T. ODell is hopeful the appraisals will be received before the end of January 2016.

Management

Chapman Mill Pond:

- **>>Parking area construction: status**

The bid was awarded to a company in Killingworth. Once the contractor receives his DOT permit, he can begin the parking area construction.

- **Toby Hill: Parking Recommendations**
J. Riggio has agreed to assist in locating and design of a parking area on Breakneck Hill Road.
- **St. John/HHW: Parking Recommendations**
J. Riggio has agreed to assist in locating and design of a parking area at end of Halls Road..

Old Business- as needed

There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business-as needed

There was no New Business to discuss.

Reports

Planning, Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Harbor Commission, Town Center, Adopt-A-Spot, The Preserve

<p><u>MOTION:</u> 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, February 16, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the South Meeting Room of the Mulvey Municipal Center, 866 Boston Post Road. <u>MADE:</u> by M. Marx; <u>SECONDED:</u> by M. Oryl; <u>VOTED IN FAVOR:</u> M. Oryl, R. Bell, M. Marx, B. Peterson; <u>OPPOSED:</u> none; <u>ABSTAINED:</u> none.; <u>APPROVED:</u> 4-0-0.</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk

cc: Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission