



**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, April 15, 2014 7:00 p.m.  
Mulvey Municipal Center - South Meeting Room  
(Approved)**

**Members Present**

Tom ODell, Don Harger, Randy Bell, Bob Peterson

**Excused Absences**

Marty Marx  
Mike Oryl  
John Rie

One member of the public was present.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Tom ODell called the regular meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Minutes- March 18, 2014**

**MOTION:** to approve the minutes of March 18, 2014 as presented. **MADE:** by B. Peterson; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** R. Bell, B. Peterson, D. Harger; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 3-0-0.

**Bills**

**MOTION:** to pay \$131.62 to Kathleen Noyes, Conservation Commission Recording Clerk. ;**MADE:** by B. Peterson; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, R. Bell, D. Harger; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 3-0-0.

**Correspondence**

The following correspondence was received: the Zoning Commission's regular meeting minutes from 2/25/2014, and 3/25/2014, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission's regular meeting minutes from 3/4/2014, the Inland Wetlands Agent's report for March 2014, and a fact sheet from the Land Use Academy in Haddam, CT on the roles of Conservation Commissioners.

## **Chairman's Report**

**Kirtland Landing:** The grant was submitted on time. There has been no word yet.

**DEEP Open Space Grant:** The grant was submitted on time by Town Planner Meg Parulis who hand delivered it to Hartford.

**Menunketesuck-Cockaponset Regional Greenway:** The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the proposal that the Conservation Commission recommended.

## **Open Space Program**

**Signage:** Proposal for consistent roadside signs for open space sites

T. ODell attended a Board of Selectmen's meeting recently where signage for the Town Forest was discussed. It was proposed that trail signs that are similar and simple in style be erected at all trail heads perpendicular to road. Metal signs last longer than wooden signs. Commissioners discussed sign design, color, location and the need to design and erect to reduce vandalism. More research needed for use at May meeting.

**Chapman Mill Pond:** Regulations, trail marking, canoe/kayak "storage"

Conservation District staff and Tom ODell mapped trails with GPS and photographed trail sites of interest. There were 2 canoes that had been left there for a long period of time as was evidenced by the fact that one was full of water, and the other was full of debris. One had been at same site last summer.

T. ODell suggested the Conservation Commission come up with regulations for canoe/kayak storage and canoe/kayak entrance and launch points into Chapman Mill Pond. There is concern about erosion and damage to the banks.

**Trail Maps:** Review and discuss

T. ODell showed Commissioners GPS'd trail maps of Chapman Mill Pond(CMP) and Horse Hill Woods on lap top. Trails were recently GPS'd by Conservation District staff, in accordance with contract. To complete the ridge trail in CMP fallen Hemlock will need to be removed.

## **Salt Island**

**>>Wayside Sign Project:** Sign Location

T. ODell is hoping to meet with John Riggio from the Department of Public Works next week to choose sign locations on middle and west beaches, and request installation assistance.

>>**Flyer-handout:** Review; possible vote

The US Fish and Wildlife Service created a DRAFT 2-sided, full color flyer with information on the Westbrook Barrier Islands and requested comments. T. ODell suggested they move the colored map to the front of the flyer. There is an RG code on the flyer so people with apps on their smart phones can point it at the code which will take them to the web site. The flyers will be handed out at marinas, at the beach and town buildings.

>>**Management Guidelines:** update

Rick Potvin from the USFWLS is working on completing the management guidelines.

>>**Audubon's "Be a Good Egg Program":** update

There is an upcoming training for this program, and there will be a training program for "Island Keepers" or docents for the Friends of Westbrook Barrier Islands as well.

**Friends of Westbrook's Barrier Islands:** update – John Rie

The 4/16/14 meeting has been cancelled. The group plans to meet in a couple of weeks.

### **Old Business**

**Budget 2014-2015:** Open Space Funding – update

T. ODell was told that \$25,000.00 will be deposited into the Open Space Preservation Fund.

**Eagle Scout Project: Natural Heritage Map:** review progress

T. ODell hasn't heard anything since the grant was submitted. The total amount submitted for the grant was \$4,000.00.

**Mulvey small boat & dock** – update

There is nothing new to report.

**The Preserve:** Town support for acquisition: update

There is nothing new to report.

**Zoning Referrals:**

**ZC2014-003** – 1961 Boston Post Road; Proposed Zone Map change on parcel #113 from Neighborhood Commercial to Planned Residential Development

**ZC2014-004-** 1961 Boston Post Road: Special permit application for proposed Multi-Family Residential Building with 24 units.

**ZC2014-005-** 1961 Boston Post Road; Coastal Area Management (CAM) application.

This is the 24 unit (16, 1-bedroom units and 8, 2 –bedroom units) VISTA proposal that Commissioners discussed at their 3/18/2014 meeting. There is no stormwater plan yet. There is a Zoning Commission public hearing on this proposal scheduled for 4/22/2014. Commission is withholding comment until all environmental data is available.

**New Business:**

**Town Forest:** Signage and bridges

This was discussed above under Open Space Program.

**Reports**

**Planning Commission**  
**Zoning Commission**  
**Inland Wetlands Commission**  
**Harbor Commission**  
**Town Center Committee**  
**Adopt –A- Spot**

<p><b><u>MOTION:</u></b> to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in the South Meeting Room of the Mulvey Municipal Center, 866 Boston Post Road. <b><u>MADE:</u></b> by D. Harger; <b><u>SECONDED:</u></b> by B. Peterson; <b><u>VOTED IN FAVOR:</u></b> B. Peterson, D. Harger, R. Bell; <b><u>OPPOSED:</u></b> none; <b><u>ABSTAINED:</u></b> none.; <b><u>APPROVED:</u></b> 3-0-0.</p>
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Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Noyes  
Recording Clerk

cc: Planning Commission  
Zoning Commission  
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission