



**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 16, 2013 7:00 p.m.
Mulvey Municipal Center - South Meeting Room
(Approved)**

Members Present

Tom ODell, Don Harger, Bob Peterson, Mike Oryl, John Rie

Excused Absences

Marty Marx

Randy Bell

Call to Order

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

Minutes- March 19, 2013

MOTION: to approve the minutes of March 19, 2013 as presented.; **MADE:** by D. Harger;
SECONDED: by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, M. Oryl;
OPPOSED: none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Bills

There were no new bills to pay.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission Meeting Minutes for 2/5/13 and 4/2/13, Zoning Commission Minutes from 3/26/13, Inland Wetland Agent's Reports for February and March.

Chairman's Report

T. ODell asked Heidi Wallace, Inland Wetlands Agent, to assist with vernal pool educational signs for Chapman Mill Pond. She monitors several vernal pools in town on a regular basis.

MOTION: to add a planning referral for a conservation easement for Redwood Common under **New Business**, and to add "**Fish Ladder**" under **Chapman Mill Pond.**; **MADE:** by J. Rie;

SECONDED: by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, R. Bell, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Open Space Program

Chapman Mill Pond Open Space

>> Proposed State purchase of land with dam; update

T. ODell reported that they are hoping for mid July. Things are moving along well.

>>Trail work needed: Storm Sandy damage

T. ODell would like to pick a work day in May, preferably a Saturday or Sunday morning, to label trails and clean storm debris. Commissioners discussed possible dates.

>>Parking Area: CT Trails Grant – Sent

The grant was written and submitted on time. T. ODell distributed a map with a proposed parking layout plan and a cost estimate for improving multi-use access to Chapman Mill Pond Open Space. The total project cost is \$72,130.00. The matching amount (in-kind) is \$15,130.00, and the grant amount is \$57,000.00. Town Planner Meg Parulis was instrumental in the submission of this grant.

The line of sight for horse trailers was reviewed and approved by M. Parulis and Town Engineers.

T. ODell attended the Board of Selectmen’s meeting to notify them about the grant application.

>> Temporary Parking Signs

T. ODell submitted sign ideas for Commissioners to review and approve. B. Peterson volunteered to make the signs.

>> Fish Ladder

T. ODell distributed a concept map of the fish ladder. The grant is being finished. They’re asking for \$25,000.00. Tom Cleveland has been hired as a consultant to work on the fish ladder program. Westbrook will be a partner for the grant. They will know in October whether or not they’ve been awarded the grant. This will happen whether or not the state of CT buys the land.

Blueblack Herring and Alewives will use the ladder as well as eels. This will add a nursery for Brown Trout.

Steve Gephart, from the DEEP Fisheries, asked for a letter to support the project and for the CC to be a partner. DEEP has suggested Westbrook create a stakeholder's group for the fishladder.

MOTION: to support the Fish Ladder project and to send a letter supporting the Fish Ladder grant to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund.; **MADE:** by D. Harger; **SECONDED:** by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, R. Bell, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

MOTION: to put together a Stakeholder group to support the Fish Ladder project.; **MADE:** by D. Harger; **SECONDED:** by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, R. Bell, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Salt Island:

>>Barrier Islands Meeting: March 21, 2013: Review, next steps

They are looking for 11 volunteers to work on Duck Island. J. Rie offered to e-mail Rick Potvin from US Fish and Wild Life to schedule the meeting.

>> Educational signs: Audubon grant update

There was nothing new to report.

Salt Island Overlook:

>>Restore Coastal Forest: Update

R. Potvin said there is still a possibility that the CC will be able to get the \$3,000.00 grant for tree planting.

>>Invasive Plant Workshop: Update

T. ODell is working with R. Potvin and Oxford Academy to choose a date for the workshop which would start in the classroom and move to Salt Island Overlook. He'd like to invite the public to attend the workshop as well.

Greenway Work Group

>>Meeting June 8, 2013; Review

R. Potvin will be hosting a meeting with representatives from local communities that are part of the Menunketesuck Greenway and the Menunketesuck Regional Greenway. Margot Burns from RiverCOG will be attending as well. The goal is for the towns to leverage each other's resources.

Old Business:

>>"Adopt a Park"; Ask State Representatives and Senators: Update

Information was sent to State Representatives and Senators, but T. ODell has not yet heard back from anyone.

New Business

>>Change in status of Recording Secretaries

Recording Secretaries are now being employed as Town Employees instead of Independent Contractors.

>>Redwood Common

T. ODell showed Commissioners maps and site plans for the Incentive Housing Zone and Redwood Common. Town Planner, Meg Parulis, would like to have a conservation easement with a trail for the 30' buffer that abuts the fish and wildlife area.

The CC would be responsible for the conservation zone. Per the Town Plan of Conservation and Development, the conservation easement must have a conservation value to the Conservation Commission. T. ODell said he didn't know what the benefits of the conservation zone in this area would be except that it would provide a 30' buffer that would connect to the fish and wildlife.

J. Rie asked about septic plans. T. ODell said each unit would have its own independent septic service. Commissioners had concerns about having so many septic systems on that size parcel of land especially with a conservation easement there. The houses in the development would be very close together making it difficult to enforce maintenance of the conservation easement.

MOTION: The Conservation Commission will not accept the conservation easement; **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, R. Bell, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Reports

Planning Commission

Zoning Commission

Inland Wetlands Commission

Harbor Commission – The Draft Westbrook Harbor Management Plan has been submitted for review to the Town's Boards and Commissions. J. Rie reported that the dredging went well.

Town Center Committee

Adopt –A- Spot

Forestry Commission – There isn't anyone on the Forestry Commission at this time. It is an elected office. Mark Lees was the only person on it. It was created as a spinoff of the Conservation Commission. There are bridges on the trails in need of repair because of storm damage. T. ODell would like to see this commission become more active. He has spoken with someone who would be interested in joining.

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the South Meeting Room of the Mulvey Municipal Center, 866 Boston Post Road.; **MADE:** by D. Harger; **SECONDED:** by B. Peterson; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** D. Harger, J. Rie, B. Peterson, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none.; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Noyes

Recording Clerk

cc: Planning Commission

Zoning Commission

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission