



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

**Members Present**

Tom ODell, Don Harger, Bob Peterson, Mike Oryl, John Rie, Randy Bell, Marty Marx  
(Randy Bell arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

**Call to Order**

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

**Minutes- May 21, 2013**

**MOTION:** to approve the minutes of May 21, 2013 as presented. **MADE:** by D. Harger;  
**SECONDED:** by M. Marx; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, M. Marx, M.  
Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

**Bills**

**MOTION:** to pay \$143.00 to Kathleen Noyes, Conservation Commission Recording  
Clerk. ;**MADE:** by M. Oryl; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D.  
Harger, J. Rie, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

**MOTION:** to pay \$58.21 to Tom ODell for tools, flagging and maps; **MADE:** by M. Oryl;  
**SECONDED:** by B. Peterson; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M.  
Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

**MOTION:** to amend the agenda to add under **Old Business** “**Incentive Housing Redwood  
Common**” ; **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson,  
D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none;  
**APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

**MOTION:** to add to the agenda that the Conservation Commission may vote to go into  
Executive Session while discussing **Russo and Miele: Proposed purchase and sales  
agreement** ; **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B.

## **Correspondence**

Commissioners received a copy of the Inland Wetland Agent's report for May 2013.

## **Chairman's Report**

T. ODell is working on the recommendation made by M. Oryl at the 5/21/13 meeting to put all of the Town Ordinances involving conservation and the Conservation Commission conditions of approval into one packet.

## **Open Space Program**

### **Chapman Mill Pond**

#### **>> Proposed State purchase of land with dam; important update**

Clinton is no longer looking to drill and locate a septic plant on that area. They have withdrew their court petition.

The Sciongay's still have several conditions that they need to meet before they close on the sale of the property. The process is moving forward.

#### **>>USFWL COOP: Update**

J. Riggio was planning to come look at the road to see if his crew could be helpful, but it started to rain, so he had to postpone. The COOP has asked the CC to work on management of invasive species instead of doing educational work on vernal pools. The part-time summer workers will be working on this.

#### **>>Trail work: New Trail**

Before Open Trails Day weekend, T. ODell and summer interns Brian and Brendan bushwhacked the trail. Brian and T. ODell also fixed the bridge so people could walk over the stream.

#### **>>Temporary Parking Signs**

The signs by the trail have been left up. CT Trails Day was a success. There were 11 people on the first trail walk and 10 people on the next trail walk. These numbers include 3 children on each walk.

## **Horse Hill Woods**

**>>Trail work**

Brian and T. ODell checked the trails. There is a need for additional trail marking.

**Salt Island:**

**>>Friends of Barrier Islands Meeting – Wednesday, June 19, 2013**

First Selectman Noel Bishop will be attending the meeting.

**>> Barrier Island Coop: enforcement**

T. ODell would like to have the interns help with this.

<p><b>MOTION:</b> Conservation Commission Temporary Seasonal Employees can be assigned to assist USFWLS McKinney Refuge in management of Barrier Islands as time permits. ; <b>MADE:</b> by M. Marx; <b>SECONDED:</b> by J. Rie; <b>VOTED IN FAVOR:</b> B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; <b>OPPOSED:</b> none; <b>ABSTAINED:</b> none; <b>APPROVED:</b> 6-0-0.</p>
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**>>Educational signs: Budget change**

T. ODell said it costs \$2,500.00 for one sign. At the 6/19/13 Friends of Barrier Islands Meeting, the first draft of the sign will be presented. The USFWLS had planned to give \$1,000.00 for a second sign, but they are unable to give that now because of budget constraints.T. ODell has requested that the \$500.00 designated for the brochure be reallocated to pay towards the cost of the sign.

**>>Audubon: Grant report**

**Salt Island Overlook:**

**>> Invasive Plant Control**

R. Potvin has offered to run invasive plant control workshops.

T. ODell would like to put up a sign up at the bottom of the hill at Salt Island Overlook which will read as follows: “7 acres permanently protected as open space and watershed land conserved by the Town of Westbrook in cooperation with the Trust for Public Land, with funding from NOAA’s Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program and the Town of Westbrook 2004. Coastal Habitat Restoration: Invasive plants removal and control-Funding provided by the Long Island Sound Fund administered by the CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), through the sale of Long Island Sound license plates and contributions.”

**Open Space Policy: Dogs Allowed or Not – discuss and vote(s)**

Commissioners agreed they would like to prohibit dogs, even leashed dogs on Salt Island.

However, leashed dogs shall be allowed on Chapman Mill Pond, Horse Hill Woods and Salt Island Overlook as long as people clean up their dog's waste.

**MOTION:** Dogs on leash are allowed on Salt Island Overlook, Chapman Mill Pond and Horse Hill Woods. Dog waste must be cleaned up. **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

**MOTION:** Dogs are not allowed on Salt Island because it is a critical bird nesting ground. **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

### **Russo and Miele: Proposed purchase and sales agreement**

**MOTION:** to go into Executive Session for **Russo and Miele: Proposed purchase and sales agreement**. ;**MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

**MOTION:** to exit Executive Session. ;**MADE:** by D. Harger; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

**MOTION:** to approve acquisition of 143 acre Russo property and the 43.07 acre Miele property for a cost not to exceed 1 million dollars and further, to approve use of \$500,000.00 from Town's "DEP Open Space Fund" for matching funds, with approval contingent on receiving State and/or Federal Funds in the amount of \$500,000.00. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

### **Trail Day: Report**

This information was discussed above under **Open Space Program**.

### **Old Business:**

#### **>>Budget: Proposed revisions for 2012-2013**

T. Odell explained that purchase of a weed-whacker a capital expenditure, and at the end of the year, these expenses can be tracked, so a motion needs to be made for this purchase.

**MOTION:** to use funds from the Supply Line Item for purchase of FS 90R Stihl Weed-Whacker for \$329.95. ;**MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

**MOTION:** to approve purchase of a FS 90R Stihl Weed-Whacker with blade, adaptable for \$329.95, with additional safety equipment for \$70.00; total expenditure \$400.00. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

**>> Budget: Proposed revisions for 2013-2014**

The sign for Chapman Mill Pond will likely be paid for under the Audubon grant, so T. ODell asked Commissioners if they would like to transfer the \$1,000.00 allocated for the sign to Professional Services for GPS mapping.

**MOTION:** to use \$1,000.00 in the Open Space line item that was to be used for Chapman Mill Pond Open Space sign for GPS mapping under Professional Services. ;**MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

**>>Incentive Housing Redwood Common: Update**

The 30' area will not be a conservation restriction as was discussed at the 5/21/13 Conservation Commission meeting. Instead it will be an easement, so the Conservation Commission will not be responsible for maintaining that land.

**New Business**

**>>Requesting Locally Important Farmland Soils Designation from NRCS**

T. ODell distributed copies of the Spring 2013 edition of "The Habitat" a newsletter by the CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions. In the newsletter, there was information T. ODell shared with Commissioners about soil designation from NRCS.

**MOTION:** to request that the First Selectman Noel Bishop request that the NRCS provide a locally important farmland soils designation in Westbrook for conservation planning purposes. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by M. Marx; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

**Reports**

**Planning Commission**

**Zoning Commission**

**Inland Wetlands Commission**

**Harbor Commission**

**Town Center Committee**

**Adopt –A- Spot**

There were no new commission reports.

**MOTION:** to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the South Meeting Room of the Mulvey Municipal Center, 866 Boston Post Road. **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** D. Harger, J. Rie, B. Peterson, M. Marx, R. Bell, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none.; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Noyes  
Recording Clerk

cc: Planning Commission  
Zoning Commission  
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission