



**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, August 20, 2013 7:00 p.m.
Mulvey Municipal Center - South Meeting Room
(Unapproved)**

Members Present

Tom ODell, Bob Peterson, Randy Bell, Mike Oryl, Don Harger, Marty Marx (*arrived at 7:38 p.m.*)

Excused Absences

John Rie

Call to Order

Chairman Tom ODell called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes- July 16, 2013

MOTION: to approve the minutes of July 16, 2013 as presented. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, R. Bell, D. Harger, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Bills

MOTION: to pay \$121.00 to Kathleen Noyes, Conservation Commission Recording Clerk. ;**MADE:** by M. Oryl; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Oryl, D. Harger, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received: the July 23, 2013 Zoning Commission's regular meeting minutes and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agent's report for July 2013.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report will be discussed as part of the regular agenda items.

Open Space Program

Chapman Mill Pond

>> Proposed State purchase of land with dam - Update

T. ODell talked with the DEEP, and they are hoping to close on the Sciongay property by the end of September.

>> Fencing Established

As per the purchase and sales agreement, the fencing between the Sciongay property and the Chapman Mill Pond property has been erected from split ail gate up to the first survey stake on the emergency road. Conservation Commission interns put up the fence posts and attached wire based on survey map. There are posts every 25 feet.

>>Eagle Scout project – proposed bridge; discuss and vote

T. ODell was contacted by Michael Schneider who wanted to erect a tower at Salt Island Overlook for his Eagle Scout project. T. ODell met Michael and his father at site. There were a number of concerns; Tower height to see LIS was unknown; tower would require anchoring in bed rock; cost of project; and public safety.

T. ODell suggested instead that M. Schneider consider building a bridge, approximately 15 feet, over small stream that drains into Chapman Mill Pond. After visiting stream site M. Schneider sent email to T. ODell stating his interest in building bridge for his Eagle Scout project.

Heidi Wallace, Westbrook Wetlands Enforcement Officer, will assist in locating appropriate location for the bridge.

Once M. Schneider has his project approved by his Eagle Scout project leader, T. ODell would like the Conservation Commission to review it for their approval as well.

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| <p>MOTION: to approve the concept of Michael Schneider’s offer to build a bridge over the vernal pools and stream at Chapman Mill Pond as his Eagle Scout project with the stipulation that the Conservation Commission have input and final approval regarding the building plans for the bridge, the location of the bridge and the way the materials will be transported into the area.; MADE: by R. Bell; SECONDED: by B. Peterson; VOTED IN FAVOR: B. Peterson, M. Oryl, D. Harger, R. Bell; OPPOSED: none; ABSTAINED: none; APPROVED: 4-0-0.</p> |
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Salt Island

>>Friends of Barrier Islands Meeting: July 17, 2013; brief review; Next – August 21, 2013

T. ODell reported that the group is developing a mission statement with goals. They asked T. ODell to write an Aububon IBA grant for funds to increase the number of patrols of the islands by the town marine patrol to protect the nesting areas. T. ODell worked on this IBA Small Matching Grants Program application with First Selectman Noel Bishop and Harbor Master Dave Russell. The grant is for the enforcement of public activity restrictions, and for public outreach, to conserve and protect IBA Barrier Islands and adjacent lands.

>> Barrier Island Coop: enforcement update

Enforcement issues were discussed under Friends of the Barrier Islands Meeting.

>>Shorebird Workshop; August 16, 2013 Report

Audobon held a workshop in Milford on the management of shorebirds. T. ODell attended the workshop with two of the Conservation Commission's interns, Marty and Brian, who plan to return and intern for the town next year. The workshop was held partially inside and partially outside on the tidal flats in Milford.

Salt Island Overlook

>> Sign erected, new trail cut

The Salt Island Overlook sign designating the site as a conservation open space was installed on the entrance trail. A new section of the trail is being cut adjacent to the forest wetland.

Trail maps : Contract with Conservation District – update

Work on GPS open space mapping is being postponed until October.

Russo and Miele

>>Proposed purchase and sales agreement update

The purchase and sales agreements have been signed by both parties and the town.

>>Appraisal(s); Selectmen approve, request Finance appropriation

T. ODell reported that the request for \$4,500.00 has been approved by the Board of Selectmen.

>>DEEP Grant Program as back up

If the DEEP funds are not available for acquisition this fall the Conservation Commission will apply to the DEEP municipal open space grant program. The application would be due in February, 2014. The recipients aren't announced until fall 2014. T. ODell explained that October 15th is the end date for the purchase agreements. The Conservation Commission would have to renegotiate purchase and sales agreements with landowners before applying for grant. In either case a Town Meeting must accept state money and use money the Conservation Commission already has to purchase the land.

Staff Report

This is Brendan's last week of interning. He will be completing law school this coming year, so it is unlikely he will be returning to intern next summer. Brian and Marty will work until August 23.

>>Mulvey Environmental Education and Native Plant Trail

The interns will be working on the Mulvey native planting this coming week.

>>Open Space: Invasive plant inspection and final summer cutting

The interns will be working this coming week to do the final summer cutting.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business

Town Center Committee Referral: Proposed Adopt-A-Spot

T. ODell distributed the Adopt –A-Spot Application for Spot C-9; Route 1 near the Lyman Building, pictures of the 3 berms, and the Adopt-A-Spot proposal for planting on Town Property next to Lyman Realty. The town owns this property.

Town Planner, Meg Parulis, the staff person for the Town Center Committee, requested that the Conservation Commission comment on the proposal. T. ODell and M. Parulis are hopeful the Town Center Committee, Adopt-A-Spot and the Conservation Commission can work together to get \$5,000.00 in funding to clear the area of all the dead trees and invasive plants by September 2014 at which point an appropriate planting plan can be developed.

T. ODell proposed an Adopt-A-Spot proposal with the following comments: Planting could be attractive but should contain only native plants. The location of the berms may compromise clean up of the area behind and west of the berms. The planting should be delayed until the site clean up is completed or if funding for site clean up is not obtained by September 2014. The Traffic Commission should be asked for their approval.

Commissioners reviewed and agreed with the comments. They want to be sure the new plantings are appropriate for the area and that the non invasive plantings are removed.

MOTION: to send the proposal to the Town Center Committee as a recommendation from the Conservation Commission. **MADE:** by D. Harger; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Marx, B. Peterson, M. Oryl, D. Harger, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none.; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

The Preserve: Trust for Public Land proposal; Westbrook’s involvement

T. ODell, M. Parulis and Trust for Public Land members were planning to meet tomorrow to walk the land Westbrook owns as part of The Preserve. The meeting has been postponed.

T. ODell said he thinks the Trust for Public Land may ask the Conservation Commission if they would be willing to contribute financially to purchase Preserve.

R. Bell suggested the Town of Westbrook might have money to contribute. T. ODell said the Town may be able to write a grant for this as well.

Reports

Planning Commission

Zoning Commission

Inland Wetlands Commission

Harbor Commission

Town Center Committee

Adopt –A- Spot

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, September 17, 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 R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Marx, B. Peterson, M. Oryl, D. Harger, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none.; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Noyes
Recording Clerk

cc: Planning Commission
Zoning Commission
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission