



**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  
(Approved)**

**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 up to the first survey stake. Marty Marx and Conservation Commission intern Brian put up the fence posts based on T. ODell's map. There are posts every 25 feet.

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

T. ODell was contacted by Micheal Schneider who wanted to erect a tower at Salt Island overlook for his Eagle Scout project. T. ODell was concerned this would be difficult to maintain from a safety standpoint.

T. ODell suggested instead that M. Schneider build a small bridge, approximately 15 feet, over the vernal pools and small stream at Chapman Mill Pond. The location for the bridge will be reviewed by Westbrook Wetlands Enforcement Officer Heidi Wallace.

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.

<p><b>MOTION:</b> 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.; <b>MADE:</b> by R. Bell; <b>SECONDED:</b> by B. Peterson; <b>VOTED IN FAVOR:</b> B. Peterson, M. Oryl, D. Harger, R. Bell; <b>OPPOSED:</b> none; <b>ABSTAINED:</b> none; <b>APPROVED:</b> 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 a grant to increase the number of town patrol boats used to protect the nesting areas. T. ODell worked on this IBA Small Matching Grants Program application form with with First Selectman Noel Bishop. The grant is for the enforcement of public activity restrictions, and 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 sign has been put up. A new section of the trail is being worked on.

### **Trail maps : Contract with Conservation District – update**

This 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 money from the DEEP isn't awarded, the Conservation Commission can 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 go to Town Meeting to 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.

### **>>Mulvey Environmental Education and Native Plant Trail**

The interns will be working on the native plant trail 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.

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

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**

<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 on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 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 R. Bell; <b><u>VOTED IN FAVOR:</u></b> M. Marx, B. Peterson, M. Oryl, D. Harger, R. Bell; <b><u>OPPOSED:</u></b> none; <b><u>ABSTAINED:</u></b> none.; <b><u>APPROVED:</u></b> 5-0-0.</p>
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Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Noyes  
Recording Clerk

cc: Planning Commission  
Zoning Commission  
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission