



**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, October 15, 2013 7:00 p.m.
Mulvey Municipal Center - South Meeting Room
(Approved)**

Members Present

Tom ODell, Bob Peterson, Randy Bell, Marty Marx, John Rie, Mike Oryl

Excused Absences

Don Harger

Call to Order

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

Minutes- September 17, 2013

MOTION: to approve the minutes of September 17, 2013 as presented. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by B. Peterson; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, J. Rie, M. Oryl, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Bills

MOTION: to pay \$133.98 to Kathleen Noyes, Conservation Commission Recording Clerk. ;**MADE:** by M. Oryl; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received: Inland Wetlands & Watercourses regular meeting minutes from 10/1/2013, Zoning Commission corrected meeting minutes from 7/23/2013 and regular meeting minutes from 9/24/2013, Inland Wetlands Agent's report for September, a letter from First Selectman Noel Bishop renewing T. ODell's term on the Conservation Commission and a letter from Docko regarding a small boat structure behind Mulvey Community Center. R. Bell and D. Harger also received letters from N. Bishop renewing their terms on the Conservation Commission.

Chairman's Report

T. ODell shared a copy of the book **Bringing Nature Home - How you Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants** by Douglas W. Tallamy. He was asked to publish a review of the book in the CACIWC (CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) newsletter.

Open Space Program

Russo and Miele: Executive Session

MOTION: to enter into Executive Session. **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, J. Rie, M. Oryl, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

MOTION: to exit Executive Session. **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, J. Rie, M. Oryl, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

MOTION: to pay \$550,000.00 from the DEP Open Space Fund for the purchase of the Russo property. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, J. Rie, M. Oryl, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

MOTION: to pay \$15,000.00 from the Open Space Preservation Fund for deposits for the Russo and Miele properties. **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, J. Rie, M. Oryl, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Chapman Mill Pond

>> Proposed State purchase of land with dam – Update

T. ODell reported that the purchase process has been completed. The state would like Westbrook to participate in dam maintenance. The CT River Coastal Conservation District has received a grant for the design of the fishway through the Long Island Sound Nature's Fund.

>> Emergency Road Repair: Bids; Selection

T. ODell received three bids for repairing seven emergency road segments in Chapman Mill Pond Open Space. He distributed a sheet showing the tasks required for the repairs and the three detailed bids received. He noted that the US Fish and Wildlife Service must review the bids before one is accepted, but this process will be delayed because of the government furlough. Commissioners discussed the bids in detail.

MOTION: to accept the bid for \$3,587.50 for the emergency road repair in Chapman Mill Pond Open Space. **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Marx, J. Rie, M. Oryl, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** B. Peterson; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 4-1-0.

>>Eagle Scout project – proposed bridge; Update

Boy Scout Michael Schneider has contacted engineer Tom Elliot to help him with this project.

Salt Island

>>Management Guidelines: Update

T. ODell asked Commissioners to review the draft guidelines that he distributed at the September meeting.

>>Barrier Island “Enforcement” Coop: As needed

T. ODell received a notice from CT Audobon. They were only able to fund \$1,800.00 of the \$2,500.00 requested. The Ornithological Association may be able to fund the remaining amount.

T. ODell will apply for this grant.

>>Friends of Barrier Islands Meetings: Review actions of September 18th meeting

J. Rie reported that the group has developed a mission, a series of goals, and they are getting some cooperation from the DEEP. He would like the group to bring together plans to stabilize Salt Island, Duck Island and Menunketesuck Island. He plans to work with Torrence Downes from CRERPA on this. These plans need to be included in the Town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan. He wrote an article about the Friends of Barrier Islands for Westbrook Events magazine.

Salt Island Overlook: As needed

T. ODell asked M. Marx if his son Marty would be willing to do some weed whacking on the trails. M. Marx said yes, and he will have Marty contact T. ODell.

Old Business

The Preserve: Update

Kate Brown from the CT Trust for Public Land met with Town Planner Meg Parulis and First Selectman Noel Bishop. TPL is looking for funding to purchase The Preserve.

Kirtland Landing Restoration: Grant Opportunity with USFWL Refuge

T. ODell is working on filling out the grant application. He’d like to have the application ready to submit when the government furlough is over.

New Business:

Mulvey River front dock and small craft launching facility

T.ODell was not able to meet the deadline for this grant application. He hopes to apply in the spring.

MOTION: to add the 2014 Conservation Commission meeting schedule to the meeting agenda under New Business. **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, J. Rie, M. Oryl, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

MOTION: to approve the 2014 Conservation Commission meeting schedule as presented. **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, J. Rie, M. Oryl, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Reports

Planning Commission

Zoning Commission

Inland Wetlands Commission - Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer Heidi Wallace has been in touch with the post office regarding the detention pond they have behind their building that feeds into Salt Island Overlook.

Harbor Commission

Town Center Committee

Adopt –A- Spot

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, November 19, 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 J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Marx, B. Peterson, D. Harger, R. Bell, J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none.; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Noyes
Recording Clerk

cc: Planning Commission
Zoning Commission
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission