



**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 18, 2016 7:00 p.m.
Mulvey Municipal Center - South Meeting Room
(Unapproved)**

Members Present

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

Ralph DePonte, Representative of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Call to Order

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

Minutes- September 20, 2016

MOTION: to approve the Conservation Commission's Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2016 as presented. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Oryl, M. Marx, J. Rie, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

MOTION: to approve the September 2016 time sheet from Recording Clerk Kathleen King in the amount of \$137.55. **MADE:** by M. Oryl; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Oryl, J. Rie, M. Marx, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Correspondence

The following were received: 8/23/2016 Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes, 9/27/2016 Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes, the Inland Wetlands Agent's report for September 2016, Fall 2016 newsletter from Solitude Lake Management and the letter of resignation from Conservation Commissioner Bob Peterson.

Chairman's Report

>>Ralph DePonte: Status of appointment to the Conservation Commission
R. DePonte said this is still in process. He's hoping to have everything completed by the 11/15/2016 Conservation Commission meeting.

MOTION: to add under **New Business** Salt Island Overlook- tree to honor Bob Peterson. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by M. Marx; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Oryl, J. Rie, M. Marx, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

MOTION: to add under **New Business** Sale of Town Property, 1112 Boston Post Road, former American Legion Property. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by M. Marx; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Oryl, J. Rie, M. Marx, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Open Space Program
Preservation/Acquisition

- **Sciongay: Update**
 - >>Based on the appraisal, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is optimistic that the Sciongays will accept the offer to buy the property. They are waiting for the Sciongays to return from South Carolina. The purchase agreement will maintain the Town Easement to Chapman Mill Pond and eliminate the Emergency Only Restriction. A new easement document will be required to spell out the details of the easement use.
 - >>The Town of Westbrook will be responsible for removing the buildings. There is a \$89,000.00 donation for this. This work will require a cooperative agreement with the CT DEEP for liability purposes and the specifics regarding on site restoration.
 - >>The CT DEEP acquisition will allow electrical service to the fishway which should be completed by the end of October.
 - >>The CT DEEP has been told that the bridge over the dam will be repaired.

Management

- **Chapman Mill Pond:**
 - >>**Parking area:** Status of Gate Open/Close schedule:
 - >>T. ODell was recently told by a friend who walks his dog at Chapman Mill Pond every morning at approximately 8:00 a.m. that sometimes the gate is not open, but it usually is. Apparently, the gate is closed every evening. There have been no complaints.
 - >>**Signage:** Kiosk volunteer
 - There is a Boy Scout named Jared Smith who is working on the kiosk signage. Tom ODell has his contact information.
 - >>T. ODell will take pictures of the Pond and fishway progress for the kiosk.
- **Salt Island:**
 - Survey Results Summary
 - >>776 (adult, teen and child) visitors were counted in 18 sample days or 43 visitors per day. 70% of those visitors waded to Salt Island.
 - >>It is estimated that 1,075 visitors (adult, teen and child) were on Salt Island during the 25 low tide sampling intervals in 2016.
 - >>There are 2 two-hour sampling periods in each 4-hour sampling interval (wading time). Without counting the number of wade offs, visitors during wade periods over the 25 sampling days could be as high as 2,150.
 - >>Knowing the number of visitors leaving Salt Island during the sampling period would provide a better estimate.
 - >>Knowledge Survey: Approximately 50% of those asked want more information. A lot more information will be gleaned from the survey.

Vegetation Inventory and Recommendations by Judy Preston was circulated.

Friends of Westbrook Barrier Islands

>>Mindy Gordon plans to write a grant for funds to obtain more barrier island flyers and flyer holders.

>>T. ODell reported that an Audubon grant is being considered to increase funds available for an Enforcement Intern.

>>J. Rie said the group was very productive, and they look forward to resuming their regular meetings in 2017.

Old Business

- **Christman Conservation Restriction:**

>>Christman's did not send a report this month. He suggested waiting to see if the Christman's report that the grass is growing.

- **Planning Referral: 2 Westbrook Place & 1224 Boston Post Road-Proposed Municipal Parking Lot (27 Spaces) Owned by the Town of Westbrook Zoning Public Hearing ZC-2016-006**

>>This has been approved by the Zoning Commission.

- **Zoning Referral: ZC2016-009-11 & 13 Meadowbrook Road Extension Proposed Zone Change from Medium Density Residential to Planned Residential Development District. The Zoning Commission's Public Hearing was on 8/23/2016.**

>>The Zoning Commission tabled this until the petition signatures are verified.

- **Kirtland Landing Project: Update**

>>There is no new activity to report.

New Business

- **Salt Island Overlook Tree to Honor Bob Peterson**

>>T. ODell asked Commissioners to consider purchasing and planting a tree to honor Bob Peterson for his 36 years on the commission and his hard on clearing invasive plants in Salt Island Overlook. Commissioners were very supportive of this idea. T. ODell will try to find out what Bob's favorite tree is.

<p>MOTION: to approve the purchase of up to \$200.00 and the planting of a tree on Salt Island Overlook Tree to honor Conservation Commissioner Bob Peterson. MADE: by J. Rie; SECONDED: by M. Oryl; VOTED IN FAVOR: M. Oryl, J. Rie, M. Marx, R. Bell; OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None; APPROVED: 4-0-0.</p>

- **Sale of Town Property, 1112 Boston Post Road: the former American Legion Property.**

>>A letter dated 9/28/2016 was sent to the Board of Selectmen by Tom ODell stating that the Conservation Commission is opposed to the Town of Westbrook selling any part of the former American Legion property at 1112 Boston Post Road, Assessor's Map ID 176/046. The letter states that the Commission urges that the Town owned former American Legion Property ("Chapman Parcel") be preserved and protected for town purposes and that offers to buy any portion of the property be rejected for reasons noted above.

>>Commissioners were in agreement with the statements made in T. ODell's letter which outline in detail the reasons for preserving the property which are supported by the 2011 Plan of Conservation and Development.

Reports: Planning, Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Harbor, Town Center, Adopt-A-Spot
No Reports

<p>MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the South Meeting Room of the Mulvey Municipal Center, 866 Boston Post Road. MADE by R. Bell; SECONDED: by J. Rie; VOTED IN FAVOR: J. Rie, R. Bell, M Marx, M. Oryl. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None; APPROVED: 4-0-0.</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk

cc: Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

