



TOWN OF WESTBROOK

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

866 BOSTON POST ROAD
WESTBROOK, CONNECTICUT 06498

(860) 399-3046 • Fax (860) 399-2084

**Westbrook Conservation Commission Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 23, 2015 7:00 p.m.
Mulvey Municipal Center - South Meeting Room
(Unapproved)**

Members Present

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

Ralph DePonte, IWWC representative, was also present.

Call to Order

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

Minutes- October 20, 2015

MOTION: to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2015 as presented. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** J. Rie, B. Peterson, M. Marx, M. Oryl, R. Bell, D. Harger; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Bills:

MOTION: to pay \$134.20 to Recording Clerk Kathleen King. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** J. Rie, B. Peterson, M. Marx, M. Oryl, D. Harger, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Correspondence

The following were received: The CACIWC (CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions) fall 2015 Habitat newsletter, 10/15/2015 and 10/27/2015 Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes and an e-mail from the CT DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) for approving a Certificate of Permission for the Town of Westbrook for drainage improvements at the western end of Grove Beach.

Chairman's Report

Closing on St. John property was 11/10/2015. T. ODell read an e-mail from Michelle St. John in which she thanked the Commission for their preservation efforts.

Acquisition of the 84 acre Toby Hill property was approved by the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance (Nov. 18, 2015) and Town Meeting (Nov. 19, 2015). There was discussion among Commissioners about prohibiting ATVs and snow mobiles in the Toby Hill area.

The permit for the small boat launch behind the Mulvey Municipal Center is progressing. An additional grant was received from the Westbrook Foundation.

Rick Potvin from the US Fish and Wildlife Foundation reported on the progress of the Kirtland Landing grant.

Open Space Program

Preservation/Acquisition

- **Sciongay:** update

T. ODell recently walked the property and spoke with Mrs. Sciongay, the owner of the property. The Sciongays are interested in adding the adjacent property as a package with their property, but that property is located in Clinton. This will increase the money needed to demolish the house. The DEEP has asked if the Town would be interested in putting in a grant for the two properties. T. ODell has contacted Geo-Environmental to ask for an estimate for an environmental assessment. DEEP would like to close on the property in September 2016. The Sciongays have agreed to this. T. ODell said he will follow up on the estimate.

Management

- **Chapman Mill Pond:**

- >>**Parking area construction: status—**

- A bid package will be sent out for construction of the parking lot. In the meantime, a 6' cedar stockade fence will be installed on the northern boundary by the end of next week. Fence is to provide neighbor some protection against noise and vehicle lights.

- **Salt Island Overlook**

- >>**Vandalism--**

- B. Peterson explained that the trail map box had been ripped from Salt Island Overlook sign post and could not be found. He brought in another one which will used at Horse Hill Woods. T. ODell will provide Police with written description of the problem, provide picture of box.

- Commissioners talked about ways to secure the map boxes to deter thieves.

- **Salt Island: Management Plan: Rockfall Grant**

The Rockfall Grant was submitted. T. ODell was notified that the Rockfall Grant Committee must discuss whether or not to accept the grant because it was submitted 13 minutes past the deadline.

Friends of Westbrook's Barrier Islands- Update

J. Rie said the Friends will resume meeting in January.

Old Business

- Planning Referral: PC-2015-003 – 1062 Boston Post Road – Christman; Proposed 2 lot Conservation Subdivision with proposed Conservation Restriction: **Monitoring schedule:** There is no new activity at the site. A monitoring schedule will be developed when activity resumes.
- Inland Wetland Referral: Milano Development Corp. "Westbrook Small Business Park" 7 Pequot Park Road. **Commentary:** R. DePonte said the application was approved by the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

- Zoning Referral ZC2014-022- 1961 Boston Post Road: Site Plan Application for a proposed Multi-Family residential development pursuant to State Statute 8-30g (affordable housing) with 24 units (new) on property with existing structure-**update**—The Appeal of the Zoning Commission’s change of site Zoning has been settled.

New Business

MOTION: to approve the 2016 Conservation Commission Meeting Schedule. **MADE:** M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** J. Rie, M. Marx, M. Oryl, B. Peterson, D. Harger, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Reports

Planning, Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Harbor Commission, Town Center, Adopt-A-Spot, The Preserve

The Preserve –

T. ODell attended a meeting with DEEP staff and Old Saybrook representatives at The Preserve’s proposed parking area off Route 153 The DEEP is in the process of putting together a draft plan for parking. The Ad Hoc Committee for The Preserve would like the parking areas to be developed soon. A draft plan will be sent to T. ODell to review with town officials.

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 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:** M. Oryl, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, B. Peterson, D. Harger; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none.; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk

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