

WESTBROOK CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Corrected Minutes – December 15, 2009

Members present: Chairman Tom ODell, Bob Peterson, Marty Marx, Mike Oryl and John Rie.

Also Present: Don Harger.

Call to Order: Chairman Tom ODell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes – November 23, 2009: Upon a motion by Mike Oryl, seconded by John Rie, it was:
VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of November 23, 2009, as amended.

Bills: Upon a motion by John Rie, seconded by Mike Oryl, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve payment of the following bills: \$23.22 and \$15.48 and \$61.92 to Kathleen Kelemen for Secretarial duties.

Correspondence:

1. Memo from Secretary Kathleen Kelemen reminding everyone that when she is in the Tax Office, she cannot do Board and Commission work.
2. Copy of the submission for the Annual Town Report.

Chairman's Report:

1. Chairman ODell introduced Don Harger who is interested in serving on the Commission.
2. High School student Julie Bloom has completed her project on stream sampling. She has taken a course at Hammonasset on recognizing plants and insects. She will give a power point presentation to the Commission.

Open Space Program:

- **Open Space Plan: Review:** Chairman ODell stated that he has nothing to report at this time. Meg Parulis is spending a lot of time going through all open space properties, dedicated and non-dedicated and researching properties for any restrictions.
- **Russo Property: Preservation Strategy update:** Chairman ODell stated that we need to move ahead with getting the appraisal for the property. There should be money available in the Spring for open space grants from the Community Investment Act. Chairman ODell spoke with Lisa Pasonni from TPL to get an estimate of cost for the appraisal. She quoted \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 for a Summery Report. This is not a yellow book appraisal that is required by the State.
Upon a motion by Marty Marx, seconded by John Rie, it was:
VOTED: Unanimously to make funds available from the appropriate fund to obtain a summary report appraisal on the Russo Property.
- **Horse Hill Gorge and Horse Hill Woods: Parking Areas:**
 - * Chairman ODell stated that Dan Granis is going to give the Commission an estimate to put in the parking lot for Horse Hill Gorge.
 - * **Chairman ODell spoke with Mr. Ross regarding the potential 7.5 acre open space add-on to Horse Hill Gorge. Mr. Ross feels he can now get 2 lots from the 7.5 acres and is now willing to move forward if the Commission is ready. Chairman ODell will discuss the matter Planner Meg Parulis and ask her what she thinks the Planning Commission will allow. There is already a driveway in place.**

- **Salt Island Overlook – Report for DEP:** Chairman ODell is currently getting costs for different kinds of pervious surfaces. According to David Stein's survey, the area is approximately 130' x 50'.
- **Chapman Mill Pond: Lake cleaning and dam safety:** Chairman ODell stated that he spoke with Mrs. Sjongay's daughter and a meeting will be scheduled after the first of the year regarding the lake cleaning and dam safety. He is working on getting the Town invoiced and then we will bill the Sjongays.

Mulvey Environment Education Walkway: Nothing to report.

Plan of Conservation and Development: There has not been a meeting this month.

Old Business:

- **IWWL; 2009-002-P-I, Glen Miele, Horse Hill Road, 52.1 Ac., Conservation Subdivision: Review by Town Engineers:**
The Town Engineers have stated concern regarding the very large detention and piping located near the wetlands. **The Town Planner, wetlands agent,** the applicants Engineer and the Town Engineers all met and tried to solve some of the issues of concern. At this time, the Miele's have withdrawn their application in order to meet some of the requested criteria. It was recommended that the Conservation Commission hold off on their review until they reapply. The applicant will be looking into infiltration into the ground and will have a storm water management meeting with all the appropriate people. Chairman ODell will probably attend the meeting.

New Business:

- **Mapping ground water discharge areas: Wesleyan student project**
Chairman ODell stated that he feels we could use the data and model it (it's an approximation) and plot which parcels would recharge better than other ones. This will help in **land use decisions and in prioritizing open space.** U.S. Geological surveys use the same technology. The information will be published in The Habitat and will be a great Open Space tool. Wesleyan students will be starting this project in the spring and will make a map of Westbrook. Clinton and Killingworth might get involved in order to encompass the entire Menunketesuck.
Upon a motion by John Rie, seconded by Mike Oryl, it was:
VOTED: Unanimously to move forward with the use of the recharge mapping tool to map Westbrook in partnership with Wesleyan University and Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition.

Reports:

- Planning Commission: Nothing to report.
- Zoning Commission: Nothing to report.
- Inland Wetlands Commission: Previously discussed.
- Harbor Commission: John Rie stated that the Harbor Commission held a huge meeting earlier today and there was discussion regarding the huge problem with the channel depth. Pilot's Point has already laid off employees and other

area businesses are losing money. At this time, the town has approximately \$750,000.00 to put towards the dredging, but we are \$1,000,000.00 shy of what is needed in order for the Army Corp of Engineers to go out to bid. They will not go out to bid unless the Town has \$1.7 million in the bank and has to be fully funded by July 1, 2010 in order to start the dredging in the fall. They are currently discussing possible alternatives, such as bonding the money.

The Harbor Commission will be meeting again in early January and they will continue to look at all of the alternatives available, which will hopefully lower the costs of dredging. Once dredged, it should last 7-10 years. The Army Corp of Engineers still has permits in place, as well as the Town.

- Town Center Revitalization Committee: Nothing to report.

Upon a motion by John Rie, seconded by Marty Marx, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen H. Kelemen, Secretary