



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, June 18, 2013 7:00 p.m.
Mulvey Municipal Center - South Meeting Room
(Unapproved)

Members Present

Tom ODell, Don Harger, Bob Peterson, Mike Oryl, John Rie, Randy Bell, Marty Marx
(Randy Bell arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

Call to Order

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

Minutes- May 21, 2013

MOTION: to approve the minutes of May 21, 2013 as presented. **MADE:** by D. Harger;
SECONDED: by M. Marx; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, M. Marx, M.
Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Bills

MOTION: to pay \$143.00 to Kathleen Noyes, Conservation Commission Recording
Clerk. ;**MADE:** by M. Oryl; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D.
Harger, J. Rie, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

MOTION: to pay \$58.21 to Tom ODell for tools, flagging and maps; **MADE:** by M. Oryl;
SECONDED: by B. Peterson; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M.
Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

MOTION: to amend the agenda to add under **Old Business** “**Incentive Housing Redwood
Common**” ; **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson,
D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none;
APPROVED: 6-0-0.

MOTION: to add to the agenda that the Conservation Commission may vote to go into
Executive Session while discussing **Russo and Miele: Open space acquisition** ; **MADE:** by M.
Marx; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R.
Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Correspondence

Commissioners received a copy of the Inland Wetland Agent's report for May 2013.

Chairman's Report

T. ODell is working on the recommendation made by M. Oryl at the 5/21/13 meeting to put all of the Town Ordinances involving Conservation Commission authority and regulations into one packet.

Open Space Program

Chapman Mill Pond

>> Proposed State purchase of Sciongay land with dam; important update

Clinton has withdrawn Court petition to drill and locate a septic facility on the Sciongay property

The Sciongay's have several conditions that they need to meet before they close on the sale of the property to CT DEEP. The process is moving forward.

>>USFWL COOP: Update

J. Riggio has not had time to inspect Chapman Mill Pond emergency road to recommend how best to fill holes which limit vehicle access. The COOP has been modified to include work on management of invasive species instead of doing educational work on vernal pools. The part-time summer workers will be working on this.

>>Trail work: New Trail

Before Trails Day weekend, T. ODell and summer interns Brian and Brendan bushwhacked and made a new trail. Brian and T. ODell also placed stones to provide a safe walk-way over the intermittent stream.

>>Temporary Parking Signs

The signs made by Bob Peterson for designating the Chapman Mill Pond temporary parking area were very effective. The parking signs were removed but 3 trail signs have left up. CT Trails Day was a success. There were 11 people on the first trail walk and 10 people on the next trail walk. These numbers include 3 children on each walk.

Horse Hill Woods

>>Trail work

Brian and T. ODell checked and cleared all trails prior to Trails Day. There is a need for additional trail marking.

Salt Island:

>>Friends of Barrier Islands Meeting – Wednesday, June 19, 2013

First Selectman Noel Bishop, T. ODell and J. Rie will be attending the meeting.

>> Barrier Island Coop: enforcement

T. ODell would like to have the interns help with this.

MOTION: Conservation Commission Temporary Seasonal Employees can be assigned to assist USFWLS McKinney Refuge in management of Barrier Islands as time permits. ; **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

>>Educational signs: Budget change

T. ODell said it costs \$2,500.00 for one wayside sign. At the 6/19/13 Friends of Barrier Islands Meeting, the first draft of the sign will be presented. The USFWLS had planned to give \$1,000.00 for a second sign, but they are unable to give that now because of budget constraints. T. ODell has asked Audubon if the \$500.00 grant funds designated for a brochure be reallocated to pay towards the cost of the sign. The Board of Selectmen have allocated \$500.00 toward a second sign.

>>Audubon: Required 6 month Grant report was submitted.

Salt Island Overlook:

>> Invasive Plant Control

R. Potvin has offered to run invasive plant control workshops this fall for Oxford Academy and for community volunteers.

T. ODell would like to put up a sign up at the entrance to Salt Island Overlook at bottom of slope leading up to overlook area. Sign reads as follows: “7 acres permanently protected as open space and watershed land conserved by the Town of Westbrook in cooperation with the Trust for Public Land, with funding from NOAA’s Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program and the Town of Westbrook 2004. Coastal Habitat Restoration: Invasive plants removal and control- Funding provided by the Long Island Sound Fund administered by the CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), through the sale of Long Island Sound license plates and contributions.”

Commission agreed with site elected.

Open Space Policy: Dogs Allowed or Not – discuss and vote(s)

Commissioners agreed they would like to prohibit dogs, even leashed dogs on Salt Island. However, leashed dogs shall be allowed on Chapman Mill Pond, Horse Hill Woods and Salt Island Overlook as long as people clean up their dog's waste.

MOTION: Dogs on leash are allowed on Salt Island Overlook, Chapman Mill Pond and Horse Hill Woods. Dog waste must be cleaned up. **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

MOTION: Dogs are not allowed on Salt Island because it is a critical bird nesting ground. **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Russo and Miele: Proposed open space acquisition.

MOTION: to go into Executive Session for **Russo and Miele: Proposed purchase and sales agreement.** ;**MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

MOTION: to exit Executive Session. ;**MADE:** by D. Harger; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

MOTION: to approve acquisition of 143 acre Russo property and the 43.07 acre Miele property for a cost not to exceed 1 million dollars and, further, to approve use of \$500,000.00 from Town's "DEP Open Space Fund" for matching funds, with approval contingent on receiving State and/or Federal Funds in the amount of \$500,000.00. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Trail Day: Report

This information was discussed above under **Open Space Program**.

Old Business:

>>Budget: Proposed revisions for 2012-2013

T. Odell explained that purchase of a weed-whacker, will need to be funded by funds in the supplies line item; he needs a motion to be made for the use of those funds for that purpose.

MOTION: to use funds from the Supply Line Item for purchase of FS 90R Stihl Weed-Whacker for \$329.95. ;**MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

MOTION: to approve purchase of a FS 90R Stihl Weed-Whacker with blade, adaptable for \$329.95, with additional safety equipment for \$70.00; total expenditure \$400.00.**MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

>> Budget: Proposed revisions for 2013-2014

The sign for Chapman Mill Pond will likely be paid for under the Audubon grant, so T. ODell asked Commissioners if they would like to transfer the \$1,000.00 allocated for the sign to Professional Services for GPS mapping.

MOTION: to use \$1,000.00 in the Open Space line item that was to be used for Chapman Mill Pond Open Space sign for GPS mapping under Professional Services. ;**MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

>>Incentive Housing Redwood Common: Update

The 30' area will not be a conservation restriction as was discussed at the 5/21/13 Conservation Commission meeting. Instead it will be an easement, enforced by Zoning Commission so the Conservation Commission will not be responsible for maintaining that land.

New Business

>>Requesting Locally Important Farmland Soils Designation from NRCS

T. ODell distributed copies of the Spring 2013 edition of "The Habitat" a newsletter by the CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions. In the newsletter, there was information T. ODell shared with Commissioners about soil designation from NRCS.

MOTION: to request that the First Selectman Noel Bishop request that the NRCS provide a locally important farmland soils designation in Westbrook for conservation planning purposes. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by M. Marx; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, D. Harger, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none: **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Reports

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

There were no new commission reports.

MOTION: 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, July 16, 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 D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** D. Harger, J. Rie, B. Peterson, M. Marx, R. Bell, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none.; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Noyes
Recording Clerk

cc: Planning Commission
Zoning Commission
Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission