



**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, September 17, 2013 7:00 p.m.
Mulvey Municipal Center - South Meeting Room
(Unapproved)**

Members Present

Tom ODell, Bob Peterson, Randy Bell, Marty Marx, John Rie (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), Don Harger (arrived at 7:38 p.m.)

Excused Absences

Mike Oryl

Call to Order

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

Minutes- August 20, 2013

MOTION: to approve the minutes of August 20, 2013 as presented. **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by B. Peterson; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 3-0-0.

Bills

MOTION: to pay \$144.95 to Kathleen Noyes, Conservation Commission Recording Clerk. ;**MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, J. Rie, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received: the 2013 edition of the Habitat newsletter which is a publication of the CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC), the Inland Wetland Agent's report for August 2013, the Zoning Commission minutes for 7/23/13, and Zoning Referral ZC-2013-014 for 1306 Boston Post Road for an affordable housing development.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report will be included as part of the individual agenda items below.

Open Space Program

Chapman Mill Pond

>> Proposed State purchase of land with dam – Update

The tentative closing date for this land purchase is October 22, 2013.

>> Emergency Road Repair: Bid Process

Charlie Farrell from the Department of Public Works collaborated with T. ODell to put together information that can be used to prepare the bid. T. ODell hopes to get work completed by the end of October.

>>Eagle Scout project – proposed bridge; Update

Boy Scout Michael Schneider is looking for an engineer willing to work at little or no cost to help with this project.

Salt Island

>>Management Guidelines: Review attached for discussion

T ODell has put together a prospective management plan outline dated 9/10/13, entitled, “Managing Salt Island a CT dedicated open space” with goals and objectives. He asked Commissioners to review the draft, and e-mail or call him with their comments. This draft plan will also be discussed at the Friends of Barrier Islands Group meeting.

T. ODell distributed a draft entitled, “Wayside Signs (2): Audubon Grant 2012.” This encompasses the sign at Middle Beach across from Salt Island and the sign at Main Beach facing Menunketesuck and Duck Islands. T. ODell would like to see the signs put up this fall.

J. Rie offered to e-mail these draft documents to members of the Friends of Barrier Islands group before their 9/18/13 meeting.

>>Barrier Island “Enforcement” Coop: Review attached approved grant

The grant amount awarded for enforcement was \$1,800.00. Constables cannot go on USFWL boats due to the regulations. The USFWL may be able to use the state slip for their boat. Rick Potvin will check on this. Audubon has approved the use of a megaphone from the boat to ask people to pay attention to signage get off the island.

>>Friends of Barrier Islands Meetings

The next meeting is Wednesday, September 18, 2013.

Salt Island Overlook: As needed

There is nothing new to report.

>>Trail maps: As needed

There is nothing new to report.

Russo and Miele

>>Proposed purchase and sales agreement update

October 15, 2013 is the deadline for the purchase and sales agreement. Two or three people are coming from DEEP tomorrow (9/18/13) at 11:00 a.m. to walk the Russo and Miele properties with T. ODell and Town Planner Meg Parulis. T. ODell said there is a beautiful trail there.

>>Appraisal(s); Finance appropriation

Appraisals for the two pieces of property should be completed within three weeks.

>>DEEP Grant Program: Schedule

The DEEP is expected to make an official announcement regarding their grant program schedule by the end of September. It is expected that grant applications will be due in February 2014.

Old Business

>>Town Center Committee Referral: Restoration of tidal wetland view shed

The Town Center Committee is working with a group from UConn, and they have asked for a vision for that site. There is a dead tree next to Route 1. If it doesn't fall into the marsh, someone will have to come in with a bucket truck to remove it.

J. Rie reported that after much discussion, the Adopt-A-Spot group has decided to begin phase one of their plan. They planted some native plants on the site today, and they have done some mulching as well. M. Parulis will review the plan with the UConn team. Then the Plan will go to the Revitalization Committee, the Conservation Commission and the Harbor Commission for their review.

>>The Preserve: Establish trail head and parking area

T. ODell walked a portion of The Preserve property with M. Parulis and Kate Brown from TPL (Trust for Public Land) who is managing the property. T. ODell distributed maps to Commissioners which show the Westbrook land parcels that are part of The Preserve.

T. ODell, M. Parulis and K. Brown discussed whether or not the town would want to establish a trail head there, and if so, where the location of the trail head should be placed. They also discussed where the parking area would be located and who would do the upkeep.

>>Kirtland Landing Restoration: Grant Opportunity with USFWL Refuge

The USFWLS has a grant opportunity from the US Highway budget. Connecticut is expected to get \$30,000.00 to improve access to refuges. This could be a great opportunity to improve Kirtland Landing, and it would increase the possibility of more people visiting the refuge. It is possible they could receive this amount for two years which would total approximately \$60,000.00. The amount of money awarded is contingent on the amount of acreage of refuge and national park. USFWL staff, Meg Parulis and Tom ODell will work on grant.

New Business: As needed

Reports

Planning Commission

Zoning Commission

Inland Wetlands Commission – Heidi Wallace, Inland Wetlands Officer, is working on putting a dock/kayak/canoe launch on Patchoug River behind the Mulvey Municipal Center. J. Rie said the regulations will be changing, and there will no longer be harbor lines above Route 1. This will make dock installation easier. After next week’s Harbor Commission meeting, J. Rie will have more information to report regarding the harbor lines. J. Rie recommended that H. Wallace get in touch with Harbor Management Commission Chairman Mike Farrell. T. ODell said he would follow up on that.

Harbor Commission

Town Center Committee

Adopt –A- Spot- J. Rie reported that Adopt-A-Spot has been busy, and things are progressing well.

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. in the South Meeting Room of the Mulvey Municipal Center, 866 Boston Post Road.
MADE: by D. Harger; **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