



**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, July 17, 2012 7:00 p.m.
Mulvey Municipal Center - South Meeting Room
(Approved)**

Members Present

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

Excused Absences

T. ODell

Call to Order

Marty Marx called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes- June 19, 2012

MOTION: to approve the minutes of June 19, 2012 as presented.;**MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie;**VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Oryl, J. Rie, R. Bell, M. Marx, D. Harger; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0:

Bills

MOTION: to approve the time sheet submitted by Kathleen Noyes, Conservation Commission Recording Clerk, for \$187.00.; **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, J. Rie, D. Harger, R. Bell, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0:

Correspondence

There was no new correspondence.

Chairman's Report

There was no chairman's report this evening.

Open Space Program

Salt Island: Town open space, management

Nicole Norelli from Audobon CT, Jacquelyn Riccio from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Patrick Cumins, from Audobon CT, Michael Brooks from Audobon CT, and Rick Potvin, manager of Fish & Wildlife from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, were in attendance to discuss their concerns about the protection of certain species of birds on Salt Island, the use of signage on Salt Island and management of Salt Island.

M. Marx explained that the town of Westbrook owns Salt Island. T. ODell has asked that the Conservation Commission consider whether or not they would like to take on management of Salt Island in partnership with the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

N. Norelli said she recently came into Town Hall to complain about kids throwing rocks at oyster catchers. They are a species of concern as are the terns and tern chicks. She received a letter from First Selectman Noel Bishop, giving her permission to put up 3 “area closed per US Fish & Wildlife Service” signs on the top portion of Salt Island to replace the old signs. N. Norelli explained that a 4th sign is needed because kids climb up to the closed, top portion of the island.

M Oryl suggested a sign be placed on the beach near the stone wall in the parking area. J. Riccio said since the signs say the area is closed, they don’t want to confuse people by placing one of those signs near the public beach.

N. Norelli Audobon CT would like to be able to enforce the signs. R. Potvin explained how the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Conservation Commission would work in tandem to enforce the code and ordinance for the Town of Westbrook for Salt Island.

R. Potvin presented a draft of a Memorandum of Understanding between the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Conservation Commission which he read through point by point detailing what each party would be responsible for. Commissioners agreed that they would like to have a copy sent to Noel Bishop and to Town Attorney Michael Wells for review.

<p>MOTION: to send the draft of the Memoradum of Understanding between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Conservation Commission to the Board of Selectmen with the Conservation Commission’s support.; MADE: by J. Rie; SECONDED: by M. Oryl; VOTED IN FAVOR: B. Peterson, M. Marx, J. Rie, D. Harger, R. Bell, M. Oryl; OPPOSED: none; ABSTAINED: none; APPROVED: 6-0-0:</p>
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Discussion turned to Duck Island and Menunketesuck Island. Commissioners asked if the three islands could be managed as one unit. R. Potvin said that this is definitely as possiblity. He has had success with similar situations in Stonington and Westport. He said with good monitoring, and public education, law enforcement becomes less of an issue.

P. Cumins said that a public education campaign about birds and wildlife can really foster community pride. J. Riccio and N. Norelli added that when they are out patrolling Salt Island, people ask questions, and they are eager to learn more about how they can help protect the birds.

M. Oryl said there is a new town constable who has worked for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. He asked if she would have more enforcement ability because of her background. R. Potvin suggested the CC look into that further, and he added that it would be very beneficial to work with someone who has already been trained in protecting fish and wildlife.

MOTION: to submit to the Board of Selectmen that the Conservation Commission supports the idea of adding management of Duck Island and Menunketesuck Island in addition to Salt Island to the Memorandum of Understanding between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Conservation Commission; **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by M. Oryl; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, J. Rie, D. Harger, R. Bell, M. Oryl; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0:

N. Norelli asked Commissioners who she should get permission from to put up string fencing on Salt Island. M. Marx suggested she speak with the BOS.

Proposed “Town Use Ordinance”

M. Marx asked if Commissioners had any comments about the proposed amendments submitted to the Board of Selectmen by the Conservation Commission for Article 1, Sections 2 - 4 of the Code of Ordinances.

D. Harger suggested, and Commissioners agreed, that on page 2, letter F., the sentence be changed to add “beaches”, so the sentence will read as follows, “Alcoholic Beverages. The possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages on any park, athletic field, playground, **beach** or other public property is strictly prohibited.”

J. Rie suggested, and Commissioners agreed, that on page 1, letter D., the first sentence should include “island”, so the sentence will read as follows: “In no event shall any dog be allowed, either leashed or unleashed, on any designated beach, park, athletic field, playground or **island**, except in such areas designated by the Board.”

B. Peterson asked how these changes will be publicized. M. Marx said this is something that should be answered by Town Attorney Michael Wells.

Chapman Mill Pond:

Dam Management

In their packets, Commissioners received a document dated 6/26/12 from T. ODell to David Kozak regarding the Sciongay property. Commissioners said they did not have enough information at this time to make comments because there were no answers to question #3, #4 and #5.

Horse Hill Woods; trail work, temporary map

T. ODell plans to bring the map to the next Conservation Commission meeting on 8/21/12.

Salt Island Overlook- Grant

T. ODell said he was feeling very positive about the Long Island Futures Fund grant request. He was asked to respond to 5 more questions, which he has done.

B. Peterson asked if the grass had been planted yet. M. Marx said he did not know, and that perhaps T. ODell could answer that at next month's CC meeting.

Standard Woods Open Space; sign posting

There are no sign postings yet. M. Marx said he thinks Brendan may be doing that.

ATV damage to open space: Update

First Selectman, Noel Bishop, talked to Officer Hart who was very supportive of the use of an ATV to monitor town open space. N. Bishop is now moving forward with the purchase of an ATV.

Susan E. Regan: 15 acre landlocked salt meadow; offered to town: Update

It has been discovered that there are liens on this property, but Town planner, Meg Parulis, is still working on this.

T. ODell is working on negotiations for a piece of land on Toby Hill that may possibly be donated to the town.

Mulvey Environmental Walkway: as needed

Nothing new to report.

Old Business

Nutrient and Sediment Mitigation in the Coastal Menunketesuck and Patchogue Rivers. Update

T. ODell told M. Marx that he will be contacting J. Rie about use of his boat to continue looking at erosion and watersheds. D. Harger offered T. ODell the use of his 12 foot boat as well which will enable them to get into smaller spaces.

Inland Wetlands Referrals:

**1950 Boston Post Road, restaurant, miniature golf, 10 room- inn
Dentention basins and grading in regulated area**

This has been stalled because the applicant is re-doing the plans.

250 Flat Rock Place, Middlesex Hospital, clearing, grading and construction of portions of the parking access, septic system, helipad and stormwater management system

The applicant is having more more soil testing done because there was not enough drainage information.

Zoning Referral

Z2012-11 250 Flat Rock Place – Special Permit Application proposed Emergency/ ambulatory out patient medical care facility (Middlesex Hospital) – Public Hearing continued July 24, 2012

New Business - As needed

D. Harger asked what the law was on homeowners removing fallen trees in the Menunketesuck River, which is a greenway.

J. Rie suggesetd D. Harger contact Town Planner, Meg Parulis, for more information about removing trees from the waterway.

Reports

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

There were no new reports.

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the South Meeting Room of the Mulvey Municipal Center, 866 Boston Post Road.; **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Marx, D. Harger, R. Bell, M. Oryl, B. Peterson, 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