



TOWN OF WESTBROOK

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Westbrook Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 7:00 p.m.
Mulvey Municipal Center - South Meeting Room
(Unapproved)

Call to Order: 7:03PM call to order

Members Present

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

Excused Absences

Ralph DePonte, IWWC representative

Minutes- January 19, 2016

MOTION: to approve the Conservation Commission's Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2016 as presented. **MADE:** by M. Oryl; **SECONDED:** by D. Harger; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, M. Oryl, R. Bell, D. Harger, J. Rie.; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Bills - None

Correspondence: The Habitat Winter 2016-ditributed to Board

Chairman's Report: Budget; Board of Selectmen; Asked about the increase. T. ODell explained the reasons.

MOTION: to add the sale of the historic Correll House property, 1269 Old Clinton Rd., to the agenda under New Business **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by M. Marx; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** B. Peterson, M. Marx, M. Oryl, R. Bell, D. Harger, J. Rie.; **OPPOSED:** none; **ABSTAINED:** none; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Motion to add the Correll House 1269 Old Clinton Rd. sale to the agenda under New Business
3 acres, 1 acre farmland
Motion/John Rie, Second/Marty

Open Space Program

Preservation/Acquisition

- Sciongay: State has received 2 appraisals, negotiations will start soon.
- Lane—10 acres borders Toby Hill Woods and is landlocked: owner John Lane would like to negotiate a sale to town-tired of paying taxes. Eversource transmission line in SW part of property, wetlands on eastern part. Not high priority for acquisition. Discussed suggesting donation to town.

- MOTION: for T. ODeIl to contact owner and recommend land be donated to town of Westbrook as conservation land. MADE: by R. Bell; SECONDED: by J. Rie; VOTED IN FAVOR: B. Peterson, M. Marx, M. Oryl, R. Bell, D. Harger, J. Rie; OPPOSED: none; ABSTAINED: none; APPROVED: 6-0-0.

Management

- Chapman Mill Pond
 - >>Vernal Pool Long-Term Monitoring Program-Terri Potvin's NRCA Project: Discussed development of a Commission award for individuals that contribute to town's Open Space Program, with first award to Terri Potvin.

MOTION: to establish an Osprey Award of Merit. MADE: by R. Bell; SECONDED: by D. Harger; VOTED IN FAVOR: B. Peterson, M. Marx, M. Oryl, R. Bell, D. Harger, J. Rie; OPPOSED: none; ABSTAINED: none; APPROVED: 6-0-0.

MOTION: to award the Osprey Award of Merit to Terri Potvin for development of a long term Monitoring Program for Chapman Mill Pond Vernal Pools. MADE: by R. Bell; SECONDED: by D. Harger; VOTED IN FAVOR: B. Peterson, M. Marx, M. Oryl, R. Bell, D. Harger, J. Rie; OPPOSED: none; ABSTAINED: none; APPROVED: 6-0-0.

>>Parking area construction: Status, Almost completed: Blacktopping entrance apron, landscaping and signage remain. Volunteers needed to rebuild the stone wall and plant shrubs at front of property.

>>Signage; Develop consistent design, wording, color for on-road signs for all town conservation areas. Lots of discussion on sign material and wording. Also discussed number and types of posts. Sign needs to be visible in both directions.

- Parking Area recommendations: Toby Hill Woods on Halls Road; HHW on Breakneck Hill: No update because of weather.
- Salt Island: Visitor Use Management Plan; Intern update
 - >>Conn College intern is no longer available
 - >>Marty Marx (UConn student) will be able to work this summer. Terri Potvin's daughter might also be available.
 - >>Interns will be island keepers on weekends. Try to do as many SI patrols as possible.
 - >>Water's Edge also willing to work with the town.
 - >>There is a lot of work to be done on other open space. List of tasks for OS management to be performed by the interns was distributed. It included invasive work on Kirkland Landing now that grant to restore has been approved.
- Trail Management; Preseason Volunteers Needed to Walk trails and make notes on what needs to be done and clip overhanging branches.

Friends of Westbrook Barrier Islands John Rie: Will discuss future of the organization. At meeting Wed. Feb 20th.

Old Business

- Kirtland Landing Grant: Approved; waiting for additional protocols. T. ODeIl to review grant details
- Mulvey boat launch and dock: DEEP permit approved. Construction bids will be solicited by Town Planner.

New Business

- National Trails Day: June 4, 5, Will sponsor Chapman Mill Pond hike. Marty Marx volunteer. Will not do Horse Hill Woods this year.
- Motion to add the Correll House 1269 Old Clinton Rd. sale. – Bank putting house up for \$150,000. Some in town interested in trying to buy the house for Town historical value. Historical Society involved in preservation. Context: is the commission willing to support the purchase of the property for the town.

MOTION: for Conservation Commission to support acquisition/preservation of the historic Correll House property, 1269 Old Clinton Rd. MADE: by D. Harger; SECONDED: by R. Bell; VOTED IN FAVOR: B. Peterson, M. Marx, M. Oryl, R. Bell, D. Harger, J. Rie.; OPPOSED: none; ABSTAINED: none; APPROVED: 6-0-0.

- Project Green Space: Enabling legislation for conservation tax on property sales. Funds can be used for conservation and stewardship purposes.
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MOTION: for T. ODeIl to discuss with Selectman to get their support. MADE: by J. Rie; SECONDED: by D. Harger; VOTED IN FAVOR: B. Peterson, M. Marx, M. Oryl, R. Bell, D. Harger, J. Rie; OPPOSED: none; ABSTAINED: none; APPROVED: 6-0-0.

MOTION: to adjourn at 8:40PM. MADE: by D. Harger; SECONDED: by J. Rie; VOTED IN FAVOR: B. Peterson, M. Marx, M. Oryl, R. Bell, D. Harger, J. Rie; OPPOSED: none; ABSTAINED: none; APPROVED: 6-0-0.

Reports: Planning, Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Harbor, Town Center, Adopt-A-Spot, The Preserve: No Reports

Respectively submitted,

Marty Marx,
Acting Clerk