

**WESTBROOK CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Regular Meeting Minutes – April 20, 2010

Meeting called to order 7:00

**Members present:** Chairman Tom ODell, Bob Peterson, Marty Marx, John Rie, Don Harger Mike Oryl and Randy Bell.

Chairman's Report

**Minutes—Feb. 22, 2009:** **John Rie motioned** to approve minutes of Feb. 22, 2010 meeting; **Randy Bell seconded**. The motion passed unanimously

**Bills:** No bills submitted

**Correspondence:** Inland Wetlands Agent Report

**Chairman's Report:** –Chairman ODell attended Board of Finance budget meeting to request \$500 proposed to be deleted from 2010-2011 budget be reinstated. Board of Finance agreed to reinstate.

Chairman ODell asked that the Scranton property referral from IWWC be added to the agenda under new business. **John Rie motioned** to add Scranton Property to agenda under new business, **Bob Peterson seconded**. The motion passed unanimously.

**Open Space Program**

- HH Gorge: Ross 7.5 acres. Mr. Ross commissioned his own appraisal from Peter Sakalowsky of Madison; very detailed and comprehensive report After discussion **Randy Bell motioned** to have Conservation Commission obtain another appraisal for comparison , **Marty 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
- Russo Property: update: No new development
- Open Space Fund: Discuss Priorities: Commission discussed strategic use of open space grant fund regarding Ross property, Russo property parcels for linking property in the Menunketesuck River Watershed Greenway, and facilitating linkage of Ross property, Horse Hill Gorge with potential conservation easement with the Christie property.
- Horse Hill Woods: Schedule GPS review and trail clearing/marking: Tom ODell will call John Rie, when a day is available.
- Salt Island Overlook: LIS Future Fund Grant; USFWL participation Salt Island Overlook: LIS Future Fund Grant: USFWL participant – Chairman ODell handed out a draft proposal for project funding from the LIS Future Fund. The application must be submitted by May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Includes 3 grant proposals: Habitat Restoration (invasive plant removal and replanting), Education (interpretive trail signs), and Water Quality (design and construction of pervious parking area). Grant applications are underway.
  - >>Water Quality grant application needs a conceptual design of proposed pervious parking area; **John Rie motioned** to spend \$500 of grant funds on the conceptual design of proposed pervious parking area to be included in the grant proposal. **Mike Oryl seconded**. The motion passed unanimously.
  - >>Chairman ODell reported that Rick Potvin, Refuge Manager, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, offered to support cost of cutting down dead trees killed by herbicide treatment in 2009 on Salt Island Overlook and dead hemlock

killed by Hemlock Woolly Adelgid on Chapman Mill Pond, to support habitat improvement. **Randy Bell motioned** to work with Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, on a memo of understanding for cutting trees on town open space; Salt Island Overlook and Chapman Mill Pond. **Mike Oryl seconded. hemlocks. The motion passed unanimously.**

>> Chairman ODell reported that Rick Potvin, Refuge Manager, Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, offered to support cost of cutting invasive plant Multiflora Rose which dominates shrub layer in Red Maple wetland, eastern section of Salt Island Overlook. **Randy Belled motioned** to work with Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, on eliminating Multiflora Rose shrub layer in Red Maple wetland, eastern section of Salt Island Overlook. **Mike Oryl seconded. . The motion passed unanimously.**

- Chapman Mill Pond: Dam maintenance meeting. Chairman ODell will schedule meeting with the Sciongay's to discuss plan for the maintenance. Don Hagar and Bob Peterson volunteered to participate. Sciongays have contacted chairman of the Lake Laconia subdivision, northwest side of Chapman Mill Pond to discuss their responsibility for pond treatment. Commission will be kept apprised of any communication.
- Scenic Overlook Survey; Members submitted completed surveys for Regional Planning Agency.

### **Mulvey Environment Education Walkway**

- Public Dock for passive recreation: Considerations; DEP, Town: Mary Beth Hart and Sue Bailey, DEP, met with Tom ODell and Town Planner, Meg Parulis to discuss potential site for small craft dock on Patchoug River at northeast corner of town property behind community center. Harbor lines may impact any decisions on where the dock will be placed. The harbor lines are not an accurate representation as there have been many changes since they were first developed in the early 1980s. Further review is underway.

### **Plan of Conservation and Development**

Steering Committee – begin to look at affordable housing.

### **Old Business**

- Mapping ground water recharge areas: Meeting with Wesleyan Students Preliminary report submitted for commission review. A detailed report to be submitted towards the end of May.
- Russo Conservation Subdivision: IWL Public Hearing: Start public hearing in May.
- Zoning appeal No. 10-06: Lot 17 Pointina Road: to allow 6.1' set back where 50' is required: Appeal was continued to May.

## New Business

- Buttermilk Farms, LLC v. Planning and Zoning Commission of the Town of Plymouth, 292 Conn. 317 (e.g. recommendation for discontinuance of unimproved roads or for re-zoning of property on sub-standard roads, proposed amendment to Sects. 4.5.4.1 & 4.6 of the Subdivision Regulations): Planning Commission discussing discontinuing unused road in Toby Hill using recent court case in Town of Plymouth as a model
- DEP Application No. 201001037- JW Prop. of Widlitz, 830 Boston Post Rd. to install a fixed pier, ramp and floating dock for private recreational boating. No comment from commission.
- Water Quality Certificate Application No. 201001392-SB U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers, dredging of the Clinton Harbor and Patchogue River navigation projects with placement of the dredged material at Hammonasset Beach, Madison: No action from commission.
- Scranton property, IWWC referral: On the Boston Post Road formally the Wilcox property. Commercial development. Large footprint for building and parking lot. Most of the parking lot and building and septic system is in the 100 foot inland wetland regulated area. Property is in the tidal wetland review area. Biofilter for run-off in within the 50 foot and 100 foot set backs. Comments include: the building and parking lot is too large for the area. Very high probability of wetland contamination because of the location of the septic system in the wetland review area. **Bob Peterson motioned** to send letter to wetland commission in opposition to the construction because of comments above. **Mike Oryl seconded**. The motion passed unanimously.

## Reports

- Harbor Commission – John Rie reported on dredging and proposed sound school subsidiary for shell fish purification plant.

## Adjournment

**John Rie motioned** to adjourn at 9:47. **Mike Oryl seconded**. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted:

Marty Marx

Acting Secretary