Town of Stonington Conservation Commission
DRAFT Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on February 23, 2015
Police Station Community Meeting Room, 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

1. Call to order: Called to order by Vice Chairman Stuart Cole at 7:06 p.m. Commission members also in attendance were Ben Baldwin, Walter Grant, and Tim Bell. Members Stanton Simm, Jim Friedlander, Sheila Lyons and Bob Dewire were absent. A member of the public was present.

2. Review of Town Developments and Proposals
2a. *Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals*. None.
2b. PZ1501ZC Town of Stonington PZC - *Zoning Map Amendment to reverse a Zoning Map error on 4 properties on the west side of Jackson Ave., Mystic. Properties include 14, 20, 22, and 24 Jackson Ave. Assessors Map 182, Block 1, Lots 1-4. Current zoning districts of lots are LS-5 & RC-120. Propose lots be corrected to zoning districts RH-10 & RC-120*. The Conservation Commission has no comment as it was not clear to us what error had been made.

3. Old Business
3a. Mystic River Dam Committee – Nothing to report.
3b. Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees – Ben Baldwin said he had spoken with the Stonington Garden Club about their street tree initiative, but had been referred to Glenn Dryer of the Connecticut College Arboretum. Extensive utility cutting of trees in town was noted.
3c. Discussion of Open Space and Conservation Easement Transfers for Ongoing and Past Subdivisions. – The discussion of the November meeting was reviewed: that a letter be written to the Board of Selectmen asking that the Conservation Commission be consulted before land or conservation easements (or drainage/conservation hybrids) are accepted. Town Planner Keith Brynes also should be asked to refer easement language to the Conservation Commission and notify us of the PZC's decisions regarding open space.
3d. Discussion of 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development. Walter Grant, our representative to the 2014 POCD Subcommittee, said that the PZC will have a hearing on the final draft POCD. Carlene Donnarummo said the meeting will be held on 4/14/2015 at Mystic Middle School and that the final draft POCD dated 2/6/2015 can be accessed at http://www.stonington-ct.gov/planning-department/pages/plan-of-conservation-and-development.
3e. Discussion of Updates to 2007 Open Space Plan – Ben Baldwin said he had not completed his write-up of the Crowley I & II transfers. Carlene Donnarummo said she hoped the OSP can be updated to be approved with the POCD.
3f. Installing signs on Town open space properties. The 10-ft. strip to the property behind the Pawcatuck post office was suggested. Ben Baldwin said the status of the property is still uncertain.
3g. Any Other Old Business. Ben Baldwin noted the Capital Improvement Plan advisory committee met with the Board of Selectmen on 2/4/2014 and wondered if funding for acquisition of the Walsh Property was still included.

4. Open Space Parcels
4a. Discussion of parcels for preservation – The status of Moss Park was discussed. The previous owner needs to be asked to approve a change of use from recreation to open space. The status of the adjacent land behind the post office was also discussed. It needs to be dedicated as open space by the town. Ben Baldwin suggested it be named the Faulise Preserve.

5. New Business
5a. Ben Baldwin noted that the state is asking for greenway nominations – and their definition appears to include trails and bikeways. Once a greenway has been identified it is expected that funding for acquisition in a chain of properties would be easier. Baldwin asked if any potential greenways had been identified in town.
5b. The connection between Spellman Park and Rock Ridge Estates/Blueberry Pond was discussed. Carlene Donnarummo expressed an interest in getting the sewer right of way between the East Pavilion and Parkwood Drive cleared and developed with a trail. Ben Baldwin expressed his opinion that the existing trail, used for many years by football players and others to travel between PMS and SHS, is drier and only needs a short boardwalk. Ms. Donnarummo said a Boy Scout had proposed such construction as part of his Eagle Scout project, but had been unable to do so because the land still hasn't transferred to the town. It was noted that Spellman Park is no longer suggested as a site for a middle school because the estimated cost of $11 Million to prepare the site for construction.

6. Review of draft minutes – 11/24/2014
MOTION: Approve the minutes of 11/24/2014 as submitted (Tim Bell, Walter Grant). Passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn (Tim Bell). Made at 8:06 p.m.

DRAFT Minutes submitted by

Ben Baldwin
Secretary, Town of Stonington Conservation Commission

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STONINGTON, CT.
15 FEB 27 PM 2:44
CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK