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Town of Stonington Conservation Commission
DRAFT Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on November 24, 2014
Police Station Community Meeting Room, 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

1. Call to order: Called to order by Chairman Stanton Simm at 7:07 p.m. Commission members also in attendance were Stuart Cole, Ben Baldwin, Walter Grant, and Tim Bell. Members Jim Friedlander, Sheila Lyons and Bob Dewire were absent. Members of the public were present.

2. Review of Town Developments and Proposals
2a. *Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals*. None.

3. Old Business
3a. Mystic River Dam Committee – Proposals for removal of the Hyde Pond Dam on Whitford Brook to be done by the Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) and the removal the Griswold Textile Dam on the Pawcatuck River, accessed from the end of Alice Court, by the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association were discussed.
3b. Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees –Carlene Donnarummo nominated a large tree on Mistuxet Avenue, just southwest of the intersection at the Aquarion building.
3c. Discussion of Open Space and Conservation Easement Transfers for Ongoing and Past Subdivisions. –Discussion was held on the acceptance of land and easements by the Town, how the Board of Selectmen accept them, and the Conservation Commission is to monitor them, but is not even told of their existence. No inventory appears to exist of conservation easements or open spaces beyond that of the Conservation Commission which is incomplete and out of date. A news article discussing conservation easements in North Stonington was discussed. It stated that their Conservation Commission recommended that the Board of Selectman not accept anymore conservation easements, in part due to the burden of monitoring them, that they had a 2008 inventory, and that they must be accepted by Town Meeting. The Conservation Commission never or rarely hears back from the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) when an open space set aside has been required, when language for a conservation easement has been accepted or when the actual transfer occurs. MOTION: That Stuart Cole write a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking that the Conservation Commission be consulted before land or conservation easements (or drainage/conservation hybrids) are accepted (Stuart Cole, Tim Bell). Passed unanimously.
Town Planner Keith Brynes will also 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 draft POCD. Meetings are to be held 1/14/2015 and 1/20/2015.
3e. Discussion of Updates to 2007 Open Space Plan – The plan will be discussed at the 12/15/2014 meeting. Ben Baldwin was asked to write up the Crowley I & II transfers and redistribute the parcel rating sheet.
3f. Installing signs on Town open space properties. Ben Baldwin said all were done with exception of the Faulise property behind the Pawcatuck post office which would require a post in the 10-ft. strip..
3g. Any Other Old Business. None.

4. Open Space Parcels
4a. Discussion of parcels for preservation – Ben Baldwin listed properties he felt suitable for acquisition.

5. New Business
5a. Chairman Stanton Simm suggested updating the zoning regulation regarding solar access.
5b. Ben Baldwin said the next public meeting regarding the future of the K-8 schools will be held 12/15/2014 during our meeting. Use of open space between the pavilions of Spellman Park and West Vine Street School has been suggested.

6. Review of draft minutes – 10/27/2014
MOTION: Approve the minutes of 9/22/2014 as submitted (Stuart Cole, Tim Bell). Passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn (Walter Grant). Made at 8:40 p.m.

DRAFT Minutes submitted by

Ben Baldwin
Secretary, Town of Stonington Conservation Commission