

Town of Stonington Conservation Commission
DRAFT Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on October 26, 2015
Police Station Community Meeting Room, 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

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OCT 29 11:33 AM '15
CYNTHIA LAVIN
TOWN CLERK

1. Call to order: Called to order by Vice Chairman Stuart Cole at 7:09 p.m. Chairman Stanton Simm arrived at 7:11 p.m. and chaired the meeting. Commission members also in attendance were Ben Baldwin and Jim Friedlander. Member Sheila Lyons was absent. Town Planner Keith Brynes and members of the public were present.

2. Review of Town Developments and Proposals

2a. Discussion with Denise J. Poyer of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association regarding the application for Wood-Pawcatuck River Wild and Scenic River Designation. Ms. Poyer gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Wild & Scenic Rivers designation study that has been proposed in a bill and will be conducted by representatives of the 14 towns in the watershed over 3 years. This designation will give the National Park Service permitting authority over federally financed projects and will result in a two state management plan. First Selectman Crouse said that 4 residents have expressed interest in serving on the committee and their applications will be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen.

2b. PZ1520RA Town of Stonington PZC – Regulation Amendment for the rewrite of the Town's Subdivision Regulations to provide clarification, conformance to State Statutes, and consistency with the Town's Technical Standards. Discussion was held on the draft distributed by the Town Planner by email on Sept. 23, 2015. The regulation states that areas of improvements such as detention basins in open space set asides should not be counted toward the 15% set aside requirement, but the intent of the Commission is to get the improvements legally out of the open space so that they can be held and managed by others instead the holder of the open space. It was also noted that open space probably can be transferred to an approved entity at the owners' discretion and not that of the PZC as stated. There was discussion on the definition of a land trust. Brynes will distribute past correspondence on the definition. The Conservation Commission will rewrite sections 8.1 (improvements) and 8.4 (definition of a land trust).

2c. Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals. A regulation amendment by StoneRidge was received, but not reviewed. There were no others.

3. Old Business

3a. Mystic River Dam Committee – The legal notice was noted (Notice of Tentative Determination to Approve Applications for a Dam Safety Permit & Water Quality Certification and Intent to Waive Public Hearing, Applicant(s): Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Application Nos.: DS-201502598 & WQC-201502599, City/Towns: Groton and Stonington, Dam Name & DEEP ID No: Hyde Pond Dam CT DamID# 13715 <http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?A=2586&Q=571014> and http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/public_notice_attachments/draft_permits/2015september23connecticutfundfortheenvironmentdraftpermit.pdf).

3b. Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees – Ben Baldwin suggested the Commission acknowledge Nick Reardon's contributions upon his passing, perhaps by planting a tree in his memory on North Main Street. To be discussed at the next meeting.

3c. Discussion of open space and conservation easement transfers for ongoing and past subdivisions –Keith Brynes said that progress was slow on transferring the Blueberry Pond/Rock Ridge Estates open space to the town. One parcel has a heavily trafficked trail between Spellman Park and Parkwood Avenue and has been proposed for construction of a boardwalk by an Eagle Scout.

3d. Discussion of 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development – Members will read the POCD and rank the action items individually for discussion at the next meeting. The POCD Implementation Committee will review the Conservation Commission's rankings at its December 7, 2015 meeting.

3e. Discussion of updates to 2007 Open Space Plan – The action items are to be reviewed individually.

3f. Installing signs on Town open space properties – Not discussed.

3g. Any other Old Business – Stuart Cole said he had walked the Horses Healing Human property at 340 New London Turnpike, that it has remarkable rock formations and that no disturbance or even trails were seen.

5. New Business - None

4. Open Space Parcels – Not discussed

6. Review of draft minutes – 8/24/15

MOTION: Approve as submitted (Jim Friedlander, Stuart Cole). Passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn (Jim Friedlander). Made at 9:40 p.m.

DRAFT Minutes submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Baldwin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ben Baldwin

Secretary, Town of Stonington Conservation Commission