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TOWN CLERK

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

1. Call to order: Called to order by Chairman Stanton Simm at 7:18 p.m. Commission members also in attendance were Stuart Cole, Ben Baldwin and Jim Friedlander. Members Sheila Lyons and Bob Dewire were absent. Members of the public were present.

2. Review of Town Developments and Proposals
2b. PZ1524RA Andrew Rodgers (Micro Brewery_Brewpub) - *Regulation Text Amendment application to add Micro Brewery/Brewpub as a use allowed by Special Permit in DB-5, LS-5, and M-1 zoning districts*. A copy of the application had been distributed by email. Mr. Rodgers said that the amendment is broader than he intends to use. MOTION: The Conservation Commission supports the regulation amendment (Jim Friedlander, Stuart Cole). Passed unanimously.
2a. *Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals*. None.

3. Old Business
3a. Mystic River Dam Committee – It was noted that the Hyde Pond Dam had been removed. Increasing means of public access to Whitford Brook at the former pond site, including through acquisition, was discussed. Access to the Pawcatuck River at the former Griswold Textile Co. dam site was also discussed. Chairman Stanton Simm said that the Alice Court subdivision included public access to the river through a narrow strip.
3b. Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees – Jim Friedlander said that he and Kathy Weinberger would take on investigating planting of a memorial tree for Nick Reardon. Will find out about the Borough's plans at Wadawanuck Square. Cole vouched for planting a White Ash. MOTION: Friedlander to study approp. tree in memory of Nick Reardon (Cole, Friedlander). Passed unanimously.
3c. Discussion of open space and conservation easement transfers for ongoing and past subdivisions – Not discussed.
3d. Discussion of 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development – Members discussed and ranked the Commission's 11 POCD action items. The POCD Implementation Committee will review the Conservation Commission's rankings at its December 7, 2015 meeting. Bill Lyman of the POCD Implementation Committee participated. It was agreed that task 5.1.13 appeared better suited for the EDC or WPCA, but RV pumping is available in town. The parcel rating sheet will be reviewed re: task 6.3.3, but Ben Baldwin felt such review was already requested on the form. Jim Friedlander will review the Scenic Road Ordinance for opportunities to strengthen it. The list of tasks and their priorities is as follows:

Task	Desc.	Priority	Comment
5.1.12	Preserve water company land	med	
5.1.13	Pumping sta. for RVs	n.a.	Refer to EDC and/or WPCA
5.3.3	Prepare a town-wide Nat Res Inventory	high	Start 3/2016, consultant & funding
6.1.10	Inventory town-owned OS	med	Ben Baldwin to provide list
6.2.3	Provide annual review of OS & report on progress on the OS Plan	high	Ben Baldwin to provide list; completion 12/2016
addition	Update 2007 Open Space Plan	med	Partners BOS, DOP & PZC
6.3.2	Apply for DEEP greenway designation	low	
6.3.3	Incl. pot. trail sys or public access to OS rating	high	Updated rating sheet next meeting
6.3.4	Continue pub. forums to educate on OS	med	As appropriate (form Ag Comm)
6.3.5	Develop guide to OS public access	med	
7.1.6	Inventory scenic resources	low	List suitable preserves
7.1.8	Review scenic road ord. for updates & revise	med	Jim Friedlander to review ordinance

3e. Discussion of updates to 2007 Open Space Plan – Update to be resumed next year.
3f. Installing signs on Town open space properties – Not discussed.
3g. Any other Old Business – None.

4. Open Space Parcels
4a. Discussion of parcels for preservation – Not discussed
4b. Discussion of State land at 8 Summit Street, Mystic. Assessor's Map 174, Block 10, Lot 1 – The Commission thinks that this land should be set aside as open space for the town. Ben Baldwin is to submit comments requesting that the property be acquired from the State as a much needed open space parcel. The Commission will request support from our elected officials.

5. New Business –
5a. Field Trip Budgeting – An estimate from NESS was received for 5th Grade field trips to Barn Island and 3rd grade trips to Spellman Pond. The Schools and Bob Dewire like their program, but the cost is significantly higher than Bob charged in years past, even without the in-school portion of the program. One school funded their in-school portion. The cost is estimated to be $3,860 plus $399 for busses or a total of $4,259, but with a budget of $3,600 there is a shortfall of $659. Funding through the Stonington Education Fund is to be investigated.
5b. Correspondence – Letter received from DEEP to Conn. Fund for the Environment - Save The Sound saying it had authorized the permit for the Hyde Pond – Whitford Book dam removal.
5c. Ben Baldwin noted that the **Capital Improvement Program** was meeting on November 30, 2015, that the acquisition of open space is a capital improvement and that Sheila Lyons had attended last year in regard to the Walsh Property.
5d. MOTION: **2016 Calendar** approved with meetings on the 4th Monday except December (Stuart Cole, Jim Friedlander). Passed unanimously.

6. Review of draft minutes – 10/26/2015
MOTION: Approve as submitted (Stuart Cole, Jim Friedlander). Passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn (Jim Friedlander). Made at 10:20 p.m.

DRAFT Minutes submitted by

Ben Baldwin
Secretary, Town of Stonington Conservation Commission