Town of Stonington Conservation Commission
DRAFT Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on April 25, 2016
Police Station Community Meeting Room, 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

1. Call to order: Called to order by Vice Chairman Stuart Cole at 7:07 p.m. Commission members also in attendance were Jim Friedlander, Ben Baldwin, and Sheila Lyons. Members Stanton Simm and Bob Dewire were absent. Members of the public were present.
MOTION: Move to item 5 (Friedlander, Lyons). Passed unanimously.

5. New Business

5a. First Selectman Rob Simmons thanked members for their service. He reported that the State has offered the Mystic Armory at 8 Summit Street for $485,000 plus liability for the expected clean up. Baldwin reported that he had made the comment to the State that the Commission would be interested in seeing some or all of the land preserved as open space. Baldwin recused himself from this topic due to his employment as a real estate appraiser.
Simmons said that the Trust for Public Land has a contract to acquire 123 Greenmanville Avenue for use by the High School's crew team and as a public park. He said the Board of Selectmen is also working to replace the tree warden.
Simmons said that his family was farming land on the west side of N Main St, including the field at Avalonia Land Conservancy's Paffard Preserve, and recently purchased the balance of Stone Acres Farm from other Paffard family members in a partnership with neighbors. They are raising crops which are to be sold to local restaurants and have hired a farmer. He noted that the horse farm to the east, owned by other relatives, may go on the market within a year.
Sheila Lyons asked about appointees to the Commission. Simmons offered names and Ben Baldwin gave him the list of the 3 Stonington members of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Sub-Committee who will be asked to serve on the Commission.

2. Review of Town Developments and Proposals

2a. *Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals*. None.

3. Old Business

3a. Mystic River Dam Committee – Ben Baldwin asked about the status of the dam at Whitford Pond, on Whitford Brook with a sluiceway just upstream from Wolf Neck Road, now the only dam on the brook south of Long Pond.
3b. Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees – Not reviewed.
3c. Discussion of Open Space and Conservation Easement Transfers for Ongoing and Past Subdivisions – Not reviewed.
3d. Discussion of 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development – Ben Baldwin distributed a copy of the Hike Stonington list of town open spaces promoted for passive recreation.
3e. Discussion of Updates to 2007 Open Space Plan – Not reviewed.
3f. Installing signs on Town open space properties – Jim Friedlander asked if further sign had been posted. Baldwin said he would ask the Highway Department to place a disk on a post at the frontage of the dedicated land to the east of the Vincent F. Faulise Post Office Building.
3g. Any Other Old Business. None.

4. Open Space Parcels

4a. Discussion of parcels for preservation – Jim Friedlander said he would soon be walking Myles Meader's properties on the north side of New London Tpk between Lantern Hill Road and Route 201. Ben Baldwin discussed the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge, proposed in January. Stuart Cole said that Stonington Land Trust (SLT) expects to close soon on if Davis Farm conservation easements.
4b. Discussion of State land at 8 Summit Street, Mystic. Already discussed under item 5a.

5. New Business

5b. *Correspondence* – US Army Corps of Engineers notice re. Connecticut statewide general permit, Aquarion's Environmental Champions, Memo from Climate Change Task Force re. Coastal Resiliency Plan and funding sources, SLT thank you, First Student invoice from 6/25/2015 for $56.94, Letter from Block Janney Assocs. to PZC re. Halsey application, Suzanne Moore letter re. buffers in the LS5 zone.

6. Review of draft minutes – 10/26/15
The minutes of 11/23/2015 are outstanding and not voted on due to a lack of quorum from that meeting.

7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn (Jim Friedlander). Made at 9:10 pm.

DRAFT Minutes submitted by

Ben Baldwin
Secretary, Town of Stonington Conservation Commission

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STONINGTON, CT
16 MAY 20 PM 2:54
CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK