

Town of Stonington Conservation Commission
Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on May 22, 2017
Police Station Community Meeting Room, 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

1. Call to order: Called to order by Vice Chairman Stuart Cole at 7:10 p.m. Commission members also in attendance were Jim Friedlander, Ben Baldwin, and Michael Schefers. Member Sheila Lyons arrived at 7:37 p.m.

2. Review of Town Developments and Proposals

2a. PZ1715RA Town of Stonington PZC - Regulation Amendment to modify the buffer requirements in the LS-5 Zone. Amend ZR 4.3.4.1 to require fifteen (15) feet of screening for a commercial use adjoining a residential zone, and eliminate the screening requirements of ZR Sections 4.3.4.2 and 4.3.4.3. Town Planner Keith Brynes had distributed a copy of the application made by the PZC which had denied a similar application made by Suzanne Moore, the owner of a Washington Street, Mystic property in the LS-5 zone about 1 year ago. He also distributed a staff report named "Moore Staff Report 6.21.16.pdf." The Commission reviewed its minutes of 5/23/2016. MOTION: Any effort to clarify and rationalize this area of ambiguous and confusing regulations is welcome. (Michael Schefers, Jim Friedlander). Passed unanimously except for an abstention by Sheila Lyons.

2b. Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals. None.

3. Old Business

3a. Mystic River Dam Committee – Dam upstream on Whitford Brook above Wolf Neck Road was discussed. Jim Friedlander is to investigate. An application has been made to DEEP for improvements to a dam at Sylvia's Pond. Henceforth, the name of committee shall be the Town Dam Committee.

3b. Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees – Dan Oliverio, a Town Highway Department employee and member of the Beautification Committee, is now Tree Warden. Ben Baldwin said that communication about the Eversource trimming and notable trees such as the removal of the slippery elm in Mystic has been good. Baldwin will distribute the link to the CC's list of roadside trees.

3c. Discussion of Open Space and Conservation Easement Transfers for Ongoing and Past Subdivisions – Ben Baldwin noted that former Chairman Simm said that he would research the status of the Toll Bros. open space and Admiral Cove open space.

3d. Discussion of 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development – Stuart Cole distributed 2 memos from Bill Lyman, resident member of the POCD Implementation Committee. The first re: task 6.3.3 which requests an addition to the Parcel Rating Sheet which the Commission had decided was satisfactorily addressed. Lyman feels that trails and/or potential for trails should be listed as Primary Criteria. Ben Baldwin will distribute the current version prior to the next meeting for review. It was noted that this is an amended part of the 2007 Open Space Plan. Public access as criteria was discussed. The second memo is in regard to task 6.2.4 "Update 2007 Open Space Plan" and task 5.3.3 "Prepare a town wide Natural Resource Inventory." Lyman notes that some towns have combined these documents and attached the abstract of Willington's "Natural Resource Inventory and Open Space Conservation Plan" as an example. Members are to review. Baldwin has uploaded the draft Open Space Plan as a Google Doc for member editing and review. Baldwin distributed a draft printed list of open space properties.

3e. Discussion of Updates to 2007 Open Space Plan – Discussed above.

3f. Installing signs on Town open space properties – Ben Baldwin said that one medallion on a tree to the rear of a stone wall was apparently marked for removal by Eversource on North Stonington Road. The Croft Court conservation easement over the rear 25 ft. of all lots was discussed. This requirement is noted on the filed subdivision plan, but does not appear on some of the individual legal descriptions.

3g. Any Other Old Business. Memorial tree for Nick Reardon – Jim Friedlander said that a maple had been planted in Wadawanuck Square. Baldwin asked about Barn Is. & Spellman Pond field trips. Cole said this year's with NESS had been paid for. He will inquire to the Finance Department about Fee In Lieu of Open Space deposits to the Open Space account and follow up on former Chairman Stanton Simm's investigation into the status of the open space at the Toll Bros. and Admiral Cove subdivisions.

4. Open Space Parcels

4a. Discussion of parcels for preservation – Not discussed.

4b. Discussion of State land at 8 Summit Street, Mystic. - Not discussed.

5. New Business

5a. New member Michael Schefers was welcomed to the Commission. Baldwin noted that Bill Rutherford had expressed an interest in serving. He will be invited to the next meeting.

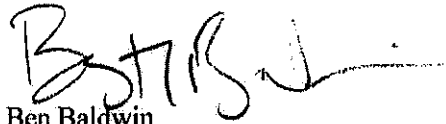
5b. Correspondence - Notification of submittal of application to the DEEP for general permit for water resource construction activities, Route 234 Pequot Trail bridge over Anguilla Brook dated February 14, 2017. The application was evidently approved as construction is presently underway through October 2018. Located adjacent to adjacent to the Ricker Preserve of the Stonington Land Trust.

6. Review of draft minutes – 11/28/16

MOTION: Approve the minutes of the meeting held 11/28/2016 (Stuart Cole, Jim Friedlander). Passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn (Jim Friedlander). Made at 9:09 pm.

Minutes submitted by



Ben Baldwin

Secretary, Town of Stonington Conservation Commission

Approved at a regular meeting on June 26, 2017.