

Town of Stonington Conservation Commission
Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on September 24, 2018
Police Station Community Meeting Room, 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

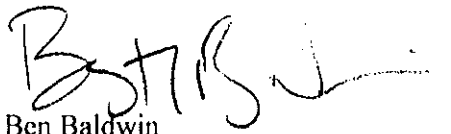
1. Chairman Stuart Cole called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Members present were Ben Baldwin, Jim Kading, Sheila Lyons and Michael Schefers. Members Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan and Jim Friedlander were absent.
2. Review of Town developments and Proposals
 - a. *Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals* – none.
5. New Business
 - a. Discussion on whether the Commission can rejoin the Connecticut Conservation Commissions and Inland Wetland Commissions (<https://www.caciwc.org>) to receive *The Habitat* newsletter. Members may join individually for \$25 as funding is not believed to be in our budget.
 - b. Received Solitude Lake Management newsletter and Connecticut Wildlife magazine.
 - c. 2019 schedule discussed. MOTION: Scheduled 2019 meetings for 4th Mondays except May 20th and no December meeting (Jim Kading, Michael Schefers). Passed unanimously.
 - d. Sheila Lyons shared Steve Fagin's column on a border wall for Canada geese from *The Day* (<https://www.theday.com/article/20180622/ENT07/180629815>).
 - e. Ben Baldwin said he had heard complaints about demolition of John's Bar (which was once a firehouse) and two rental houses on Haley Street by the owner, the Whalers Inn, when no plan for the properties' future use has been presented. All were part of the Mystic Bridge Historic District and a demolition delay ordinance to provide a waiting period (such as 90 days) before a historic structure is demolished is a task of the Board of Selectmen in the 2014 POCD.
 - f. Ben Baldwin said he saw a 'private property' sign on a bollard near the pavement at the Bay Street Parklet, not near the seawall which is within a narrow private strip, and fears it will dissuade the public from using this Town open space with views of the Mystic River. This 20 by 100-ft. lawn has long been a useful spot for car top boaters to set up before launching at the adjacent Isham Street ramp. The State's Coastal Access Guide includes it at http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/gis/coastalaccessmaps/Coastal_Access_Site_627.pdf.
3. Old Business
 - a. *Dam Committee* – Status of former Rutan Dam discussed.
 - b. *Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees* – Ben Baldwin said he had contacted Tree Warden Maggie Jones regarding the Rhodes Cemetery's tree on Pequot Trail at High Ridge Drive.
 - c. *Discussion of open space and conservation easement transfers for ongoing and past subdivisions* – Toll Bros. transfer is expected soon as they want to take on the roads this winter. Questions were raised about the configuration and size of the Perkins Farm open space and what entity was going to hold it. It is expected to abut Avalonia's preserves between it and Aquarion's reservoir to the east. Stuart Cole said that George Crouse is now president of Stonington Land Trust, Stanton Simm is executive director, and no Commission members serve on the SLT board.
 - d. *Discussion of 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development* -
 - e. *Discussion of updates to 2007 Open Space Plan* – Discussion held on ways to proceed with an update to the Open Space Plan that will be part of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) once accepted. Formation of a committee is still underway. Ben Baldwin suggested a more direct plan, identifying high value parcels for preservation. He shared the 1974 "Natural Resource Data Maps and Open Space Commitment" which incorporated a natural resource inventory with suggestions for open space land for acquisition. Michael Schefers will discuss with Town Planner.

f. Installing signs on Town open space properties – Ben Baldwin said the markers on Route 201 marking the Dunn's Court open space are present, but obscured by vines. Some trees marked by Eversource last year are still marked and standing.

g. Any other Old Business

- Elmridge Golf Course's application for water diversion renewal was reviewed by Ben Baldwin. At this point he sees no need to comment. They pump from Anguilla Brook near SLT's Anguilla-Grande Preserve.
4. Open Space Parcels – not discussed.
 6. Review of draft minutes – 8/27/18
MOTION: To approve the minutes as presented (Michael Schefers, Ben Baldwin). Passed unanimously.
 7. Adjournment – Michael Schefers made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm. Passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by



Ben Baldwin

Secretary, Town of Stonington Conservation Commission

Approved at a regular meeting on October 22, 2018