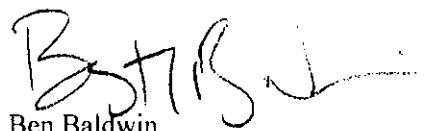


Town of Stonington Conservation Commission
Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on November 26, 2018
Police Station Community Meeting Room, 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

1. Chairman Stuart Cole called the meeting to order at 7:09PM. Members present were Ben Baldwin, Jim Kading, Jim Friedlander, Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan and Sheila Lyons. Member Michael Schefers was absent. Members of the public were present.
4. Open Space Parcels
 - a. *Discussion of parcels for preservation* – Acquisition of the Circus Lot at Noyes Avenue and the Pawcatuck River was discussed. Jim Friedlander and Ben Baldwin walked it on 11/24/2018. The 5.7-acre parcel has 523 ft. on the Pawcatuck River, 437 ft. on the northwest side of Amtrak and frontage on the end of the Noyes Avenue cul-de-sac. Much of the parcel is in the floodplain, is overgrown, and hosted its last circus many years ago. It contains a concrete block pump house on a constructed mound. The property is being used by dog walkers; some dumping was observed. The property is owned by the Town of Westerly, but has reportedly not been suitable for a water supply due to contamination from the former Narragansett Electric-owned coal gas plant across the river. The current status of any clean up is unknown. It was purchased from the Town of Stonington on 9/13/1982 for \$35,000 with a reverter clause and retaining free public access to the river and drainage rights. It had been acquired from Dahl Oil on 8/26/1981. The Economic Development Commission requested we recommend acquisition, included in proposed Capital Improvement Plan. Stuart Cole is to discuss with the Board of Selectmen.
2. Review of Town developments and Proposals
 - a. *Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals* – none.
3. Old Business
 - a. *Dam Committee* – Jim Friedlander visited the former Rutan Dam on Anguilla Brook off Lane Way. Anguilla Brook, the subject of an upcoming water quality study, was discussed.
 - c. *Discussion of open space and conservation easement transfers for ongoing and past subdivisions* – Stuart Cole said the interest in the Shawondassee Drive open space, 1.54-acre parcel 106-2-34A, transferred to the purchasers of an adjacent building lot at 43 Shawondassee Drive.
 - d. *Discussion of 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development* – In regards to the 9 Cottrell Street (John's) and 1 and 3 Haley Street demolitions, Ben Baldwin noted that the POCD encourages the conservation of historic resources and a demolition delay ordinance has been proposed with the task assigned to the Board of Selectmen. These buildings were noted to be contributing structures to their historic district, like those at 123 Greenmanville Ave., site of the proposed boathouse park.
5. New Business –
 - a. Reported problems with WPCA discharges at the Mystic plant and an upgrade of the pipe running from Mystic to Stonington were discussed.
 - b. Correspondence: Received requests for contributions and memberships from Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, Connecticut Land Conservation Council, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, and Avalonia Land Conservancy.
 - c. Notice of Tentative Determination to Approve an Application for Diversion of Water received from CT DEEP for Elmridge Golf Course (<https://ct.gov/deEP/cwp/view.asp?A=2586&Q=606118>).
 - d. Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan said the Plastic Bags and Straws Ad Hoc Committee of which she is a member made its proposal at a public meeting with most in favor and will soon present to the Board of Selectmen.
6. Review of draft minutes – 10/22/18
MOTION: To approve the minutes as presented (Jim Kading, Jim Friedlander). Passed unanimously.
7. Adjournment – Jim Kading made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by



Ben Baldwin

Secretary, Town of Stonington Conservation Commission

Approved at a regular meeting on
1/28/2019