

TOWN OF STONINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 24, 2017

Police Station Community Meeting Room, 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:14 PM. Present and seated for the meeting were Stuart Cole, Sheila Lyons, Michael Schefes, Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan, and James Kading. Members Ben Baldwin and Jim Friedlander were absent.
2. Review of Town developments and Proposals
 - a. No new or pending applications or proposals.
3. Old Business
 - a. Discussion of 2015 Plan of conservation and Development

William (Bill) Lyman, resident member and vice chair of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Implementation Committee was present to present ideas to promote the POCD action before the Conservation Committee (CC). He indicated that the CC is not rigorous in completing assigned tasks. Bill suggested that of the four CC Priorities for the POCD – 1. 5.3.3. Develop a Natural Resource Inventory; 2. 6.2.3. Perform review of open space and report annually; 3. 6.2.4 Update open space plan, and; 4. 6.3.3. Include potential of trails to open space rating scale; items 1 and 3 could be combined into one action. He discussed how many towns in Connecticut have done this, and used Willington, CT as an example. He suggested that to accomplish this, two actions are required: The list of town owned open space (6.1.10 low priority CC task), and the annual review of open space.

Michael Schefers then made a motion to evaluate the three high priority CC tasks (5.3.3, 6.2.3, and 6.2.4) and the low priority task (6.1.10) for two months to determine feasibility, after which we would present to the town's Planning and Zoning Commission. Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan seconded the motion. A vote was approved unanimously.

Bill then discussed the criteria for evaluation of open space and the potential for trails. He suggested the following primary criteria should be used for the potential for trails: 3-Existing with access; 2-Some existing trails; 1-None but some potential; 0-Not suitable. The Chair remarked that the current rating sheet is seldom used. Last use was for the Coogan project, and it required the town to put up money to accomplish.

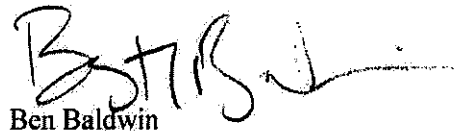
A combined plan would help to see what land would be desirable to be acquired. 6.3.3 is considered a closed task by the POCD. However, if the CC decides to move forward on the plan, it will be brought forward to the POCD.

- b. Other old Business,
 1. Dam Committee: The Chair brought the two new members of the commission up to speed on the background of the Dam Committee.
 2. Roadside Trees: The Town Tree Warden is Dan Olivero, who is indexing the location and species of trees in the town. It was also mentioned that the Borough planted a tree in Nick Reardon's memory. Nick was an arborist in the Borough.

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4. Open Space Parcels
 - a. It was mentioned that the state wants too much for the land at 8 Summit Street in Mystic.
 - b. The review of the draft minutes was tabled because there were not enough members present at this meeting that had attended the previous meeting.
5. New Business
 - a. Army Corps of Engineers sent a notice for "shoreline Erosion Protection on Enders Island.
6. Michael Schefers made a motion to adjourn at 8:37.

Minutes written by James
Kading and submitted by



Ben Baldwin
Secretary, Town of Stonington Conservation Commission

Approved at a regular meeting on September 25, 2017.