

Town of Stonington Conservation Commission
Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on January 27, 2020
Police Station Community Meeting Room, 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

1. Call to order - Chairman Stuart Cole called the meeting to order at 7:04PM. Members present were Ben Baldwin, Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan and Sheila Lyons. Member Jim Friedlander was absent. Members of the public were present.

2. Election of Officers – Members were nominated. MOTION: Stuart Cole, Chairman; Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan, Vice Chairman; Ben Baldwin, Secretary (Sheila Lyons, Ben Baldwin). The slate passed unanimously. Three vacancies remain, 2 regular members and 1 alternate.

3. Review of Town developments and Proposals

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

4. Old Business

b. *Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees* - Ben Baldwin said a memorial sugar maple for Nick Reardon is located in the southwest corner of Wadawanuck Square. A 30-ft. Norway spruce, brought in using a tree spade, was planted late last November in the square.

g. *Any other Old Business* - none

5. Open Space Parcels

a. *Discussion of parcels for preservation* – Ben Baldwin said he had been told that parcel 161-23-5, a 0.17-acre rear lot between Hewitt Road and Bishop's Cove with 50 ft. of frontage on Smail Street, a paper street, had been cleared by an abutting property owner. It is near to Avalonia's Hewitt Road Preserve. A town group is looking for a site for a living veterans memorial - naming all who've served since WWI. No news on receipt of 0.69-acre open space on the corner of Routes 184 and 201 (PZ1927SD).

b. New CT DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant program announced in December.

c. The Conservation Commission still questions how the Perkins Farm development open space will be held, maintained and monitored. The open space includes roads, detention basins, and other improvements.

6. New Business

a. Stuart Cole said that Fran Hoffman has been appointed head of the initiative for sustainable practices on town lands regarding maintenance, including minimizing applications of chemicals to lawns, and will be looking for members. Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan she was interested. Stuart Cole said this group might have better oversight over things like the Highway Department not removing cut brush on Hewitt Road. CUSH is working on a nitrogen plan for the town. Their watershed monitoring continues.

b. Ben Baldwin said he had received a copy of the Davis-Standard Environmental Land Use Restriction application to DEEP which Keith Brynes distributed to members by email. Members to review.

c. Bike Stonington meeting 2/4 re: Complete Streets and SCCOG bike & pedestrian plan. Mystic Community Bikes is no longer operating. Stonington Greenways meeting of 6/20/2019 looked for trail ideas. Members expressed interest in completing sidewalks and bike routes separated from automobile traffic.

d. The status of the conservation easement in place at 490 Al Harvey Road was questioned after the property transferred. Monitoring of that conservation easement which extends onto abutting lots of the Donahue subdivision is the responsibility of the Conservation Commission per the deed.

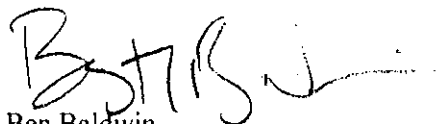
e. Sheila Lyons brought up repair of the inner breakwater, asked whether 217 additional hotel rooms are necessary in Mystic (PZ1905ZC & SPA), the Groton plastics ordinance went into effect, and Pollinator Pathways (<https://www.pollinator-pathway.org>).

6. Review of draft minutes

MOTION: To approve the 11/25/2019 minutes (Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan, Sheila Lyons). Passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment - Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan made a motion to adjourn at 8:51 pm. Passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by



Ben Baldwin

Secretary, Town of Stonington Conservation Commission