Town of Stonington Conservation Commission
DRAFT Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on August 22, 2016
Police Station Community Meeting Room, 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

1. Call to order: Called to order by Chairman Stanton Simm at 7:07 p.m. Commission members also in attendance were Jim Friedlander, Ben Baldwin, Sheila Lyons, and Stuart Cole. Member Bob Dewire was absent. Members of the public were present.
MOTION: Move to 5a (Friedlander, Cole). Passed unanimously.

5. New Business

5a. Ward Smith in traduced himself. He is a member of the Agriculture Committee of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) who is serving on the 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee (POCDIC) with Ben Baldwin. The POCD has tasks to be conducted by an Agricultural Commission with the assistance of the Conservation Commission. Agriculture in town, including aquaculture, was discussed as well as resources for determining areas with farmland soils. Baldwin distributed a list of town-owned properties of which some, highlighted in green, may have potential for agricultural use.
MOTION: Move to 2a (Friedlander, Baldwin). Passed unanimously.

2. Review of Town Developments and Proposals

2a. *Discussion of approved Zoning Regulation Amendment* **PZ1617RA Lattizori Development, LLC**–*to add ZR 7.23 Greenway Development District (GDD).* Copies of the GDD adopted text were distributed. The Commission reviewed the application at its 8/1/2016 meeting and recommended that it not apply to unsewered large lot zones and that the open space not contain improvements. The GDD is limited RR-80 and RA-40 land able to connect to public water and sewer. While large areas must be set aside as open space these areas may include improvements such as roadways. Permitted "age targeted" condo unit densities may allow hundreds of units on the Perkins Farm. Chairman Simm received an email from Town Planner Keith Brynes thanking the Commission for its input.
2b. *Any pending applications and new preliminary proposals.* None.

3. Old Business

3a. Mystic River Dam Committee – Not reviewed.
3b. Discussion of Stonington's 200 Greatest Roadside Trees – Chairman Simm received an email from Stuart Schwartzman of the POCDIC forwarded by Town Planner Keith Brynes. He asks for Commission input on an idea to place reflectors on trees along town roadways to aid with driving at night. Ben Baldwin said that the idea for cat's eye-type reflectors along road centerlines had been discussed by the POCD Implementation Committee and that some residents have asked that the edge of pavement be painted. There was some discussion on what impact reflectors mounted on trees would have on a town-designated scenic road like North Main Street. MOTION: The Commission will take the suggestion under advisement (Friedlander, Lyons). Passed unanimously.
Ben Baldwin said that the historic elm on the town-owned triangle on Willow Street at Broadway Avenue and School Street in Mystic is nearing death. It bears a plaque from the Elm Research Institute of Harrisville, NH stating that "This tree is hereby designated a historic landmark to be honored and preserved for future generations." Baldwin said the tree has apparently been affected by utility trucks which drove up to the trunk until bollards were placed as part of the recent streetscape project. Chairman Simm said that the Elm Research Institute now focuses on new disease-resistant trees.
3c. Discussion of Open Space and Conservation Easement Transfers for Ongoing and Past Subdivisions – Not reviewed.
3d. Discussion of 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development – Discussed under 5a.
3e. Discussion of Updates to 2007 Open Space Plan – Not reviewed.
3f. Installing signs on Town open space properties – Not reviewed.
3g. Any Other Old Business. None.

4. Open Space Parcels

4a. Discussion of parcels for preservation – Not discussed.
4b. Discussion of State land at 8 Summit Street, Mystic. - Not discussed.

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5. New Business

5b. Sheila Lyons read her letter of 8/4/2016 to First Selectman Simmons regarding the need for new Commission members and his reply of 8/5/2016. It may be difficult to achieve a quorum this winter due to her and others' abscences.

6. Review of draft minutes – 8/1/16

Stuart Cole distributed the draft minutes of the special meeting held 8/1/2016. Two minor amendments were suggested. MOTION: The minutes of 8/1/2016 are approved as amended (Lyons, Friedlander). Passed unanimously. Baldwin abstained.

Chairman Simm read highlights of the draft minutes of 5/23/2016. One minor amendment was suggested and a motion taken under New Business was added. MOTION: The minutes of 5/23/2016 are approved as amended (Cole, Friedlander). Passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn (Baldwin). Made at 9:30 pm.

DRAFT Minutes submitted by

Ben Baldwin
Secretary, Town of Stonington Conservation Commission