

**Minutes of the
The Conservation Commission – City of Milford
Tuesday, January 19, 2016– 6:00 p.m.**

Staff Liaison Steve Johnson called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Call to Order / Roll Call

- a) Present: Claire Casey, Maureen Mauro DeSantie, Keith Dunn, Dan Drago, Oden Seaholm, Jerry Loiselle, Ryan Keeler, Janet McAllister, Carolyn Alling
- b) Absent: none

3. Welcome to new commissioners

- a) Steve Johnson introduced the Carolyn Alling and Janet McAllister

4. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- a) Keith Dunn motioned to elect Maureen Mauro DeSantie as Chair, Clair Casey seconded. It was approved unanimously.
- b) Claire Casey motioned to elect Dan Drago as Vice-Chair, Keith Dunn seconded. It was approved unanimously.

5. Public Comments

- a) None

6. Review of Minutes

- a) **Meeting 11/17/2015** – Keith Dunn motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Maureen Mauro DeSantie seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

7. Old Business

- a) **Beaver Brook Boardwalk** – Staff Liaison Johnson said Milone and MacBroom was chosen to provide the design specifications and permitting of the replacement boardwalk project. Contract is being finalized with the hope that the project design would be completed by the end of April or early May.
- b) **CIRCA Grant – Walnut / Myrtle Beach Dune Restoration Grant** - Staff Liaison Johnson thanked Janet McAllister for her help with preparing this application. We are awaiting the contract from UConn / CIRCA.
- c) **WRWA – Report of Findings** - Staff Liaison Johnson gave a brief summary of the water quality sampling report that was finalized. It was submitted to the CT Dept. of Agriculture so the City would be reimbursed for the water quality sampling costs paid to Harbor Watch in Westport. It was hoped that Milford could expand its public outreach to Orange and Woodbridge. We would also like to consider WQ sampling in other areas like the Indian.
 - 1. Maureen Mauro DeSantie asked about the Dredging status. Johnson said the City is working with a local engineering company to develop the plans and permitting required for the ponds at Eisenhower North Street, City Hall, and at Stonebridge.
 - 2. Jerry Loiselle asked about the Geese. He said Heritage Sound planted a vegetation barrier that worked well at their

pond. Johnson said this is part of the design that will be developed.

8. New Business:

- a) **68 Stowe Ave-** The Stowe Barn property was discussed. The history of the City Acquisition was reviewed. Comments were shared from the Walnut Beach Association's meeting by Janet McAllister.
- b) **Audubon CT , Project Green Space** – Staff Liaison Johnson shared the Conveyance Tax initiative that could help strengthen the funding and maintenance of open space at the local level. This enabling legislation would need to be passed in Hartford first. Local towns would need to pass a resolution and ordinance adopting the tax on select residential real estate transactions. Johnson would provide additional details on the program at the next month's meeting.
- c) **UI Vegetation Management** – Johnson shared a program being held at the Milford public library on Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 7 pm.
- d) **Purple Coneflower Project** – Claire Casey asked if we could sponsor another Purple Coneflower Project for this May. Maureen Mauro-DeSantie agreed that it would be a great 2016 project. Keith Dunn said he thought Mary Treat would be glad to support. Steve will check with the Board of Education Central office.

9. Education topics for monthly meetings – Commissioner Drago had suggested that future meetings could include a brief topic of conservation that will last about 15 minutes. Commissioners were asked to think of topics of interest. These mini “break-out” sessions will be designed to enhance conservation education. Information that will be shared will include references for further optional study. Possible topics include:

- 1. Trees
- 2. Conservation Roles & Responsibilities
- 3. Application Review process of other commissions.
- 4. Site Survey monitoring assessment
 - 1. General open space conditions, baseline documentation
 - 2. Application related for site development review
- 5. Drug Disposal (Milford Police) to assist with public outreach and water quality.
- 6. Invasive and native plant

10. Workshops and Training –Johnson shared the CT Land Conservation Council – Annual Meeting, Sat. March 19, 2016. Several commissioners plan to attend and car pool. Others were encouraged to attend.

Maureen Mauro DeSantie shared two quotes. Maureen read one and Ryan Keeler read the second quote. Dan Drago motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Claire Casey. It was approved unanimously at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Johnson
Open Space and Natural Resource Agent
These minutes have not been accepted or approved.