

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Conservation Commission – City of Milford  
Tuesday, February 19, 2013 – 6 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call** – Bill Poutray, Steve Johnson, Claire Casey, Keith Dunn, Maureen Mauro, Jerry Loiselle, Dan Drago and Oden Seaholm. Dan Drago left at 6:45 p.m., Bill Blotney was absent.
- 2. Public Comments** – There were no public comments.
- 3. Minutes** – Minutes were unanimously approved for January 15, 2013 and for November 20, 2012.
- 4. Unfinished Business**
  - a) **Eco-Collaboration Meeting** – This meeting is being coordinated by Maureen Mauro and Claire Casey. Dan Drago confirmed that Subway Conference Center will be available for our use at 305 Bic Drive. The meeting will take place on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8 p.m. Maureen shared pictures of the room that will hold 60-70 people. She also reviewed the draft format for the meeting that was discussed at the first Eco Collaboration planning meeting. Attendees will be asked to submit their contact information, the organization(s) they are representing and a brief description of their environmental role. About 40 groups have been identified to be invited, of those about 5 or 6 represent City departments. Bill questioned the structure of the planned meeting. He wanted to be sure the presentations would not interfere with people's getting to talk on an informal basis. Maureen felt it was important to keep the format as previously planned and not make big changes at this time. Possible presentations being considered are from the Conservation Commission, Steve for his Open Space & Natural Resource Agent role along with others. Additionally, attendees will be participating in small group break-out sessions to discuss areas of interest. Groups will be determined by having people who live in similar geographical areas and determined by using the Watershed map from the PoCD. Bill also asked if it was possible to consider having groups organized by interests to leverage common goals rather than a neighborhood centric grouping. Groups will share their discussion for a larger group discussion.
    1. Dan reviewed the desire to request information from each participant during the pre-registration process. Capturing names, contact information, group summary and mission statements will be a valuable resource. Survey Monkey is a possible means of organizing this information. Constant Contact is another possibility along with Google tools. Cost and functionality will need to be confirmed.
    2. Everyone from the Conservation Commission will be invited to attend. The next planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2013, Conference Room A, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Anyone interested in helping to finalize the Eco Collaboration meeting is invited to tomorrow's meeting.

- b) Milford Litter Challenge –Maureen & Claire Casey and Dan Drago volunteered to join the committee. The tentative kick-off date is April 1<sup>st</sup> at the City Hall steps. Claire will confirm that date is available with the Mayor. The clean-up campaign will continue approximately 5-6 weeks ending on Earth Day, May 11<sup>th</sup>. The challenge goal will be to pick up 50,000 pieces of litter, approximately 1 piece for every citizen. A Press Release will need to be developed, a possible Facebook page, and a way to report the cumulative litter tally.
- b) Open Space & Natural Resource Agent Projects:
1. Great Marsh Cleanup on Martin Luther King Day (1/21/13) Steve reported that this event was a big success. Bill Poutray, Keith Dunn, and Jerry Loiselle joined 110 volunteers providing over 300 service hours. Volunteers assisted four CT DEEP staff who brought trucks and equipment to move the debris from the marsh to a staging area near the access road. The amount of debris collected was beyond any expectations DEEP considered possible. They were very appreciative of Milford's hard working volunteers.
  2. Open Space 101 - Steve has been auditing various land records of Open Space parcels throughout the city. GIS, Assessor, P&Z, Deeds, and Maps are being reviewed in preparation for the Open Space Baseline Inventory. The process will need to be evaluated with discussions of the key personnel for the most efficient means to accomplish the task.
  3. Volunteer "Shovel Brigade" February 15, 2013. Steve was asked to help organize this volunteer effort by the Mayor on Thursday morning. The goal was to clear snow from residential sidewalks in the vicinity of Milford Schools making them safer for the children and residents. The Mayor's office issued a press release Thursday at 12:30 p.m. The GIS department provided sidewalk maps around each of the schools. A 1 mile radius for Elementary, 1.5 mile for Middle School and a 2 mile radius for High Schools. About 50-60 volunteers gathered behind the library joining another 50 off-duty Milford Police officers. This event drew extensive media attention from across the region and was very well publicized. Once again, Milford's volunteer spirit demonstrated an ability to make a difference in our community.
- c) Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) members did a site visit January 27, 2013 to evaluate a 4.9 acre potential open space parcel for acquisition on West River Street. This land is privately owned and abuts Eisenhower Park along the southwestern portion of the Wepawaug River. This land is mostly wetlands with limited potential for any passive recreational trail access. There is a potential building lot near the frontage on West River Street near the Power Line R.O.W. The rear portion of this lot is actively hunted with tree stands. Oden did point out that "baiting" for deer along the Coastal Zones 11 & 12 is legal due to the significant deer population and over browsing. The Mayor's Open Space Advisory Committee will be providing a report detailing their recommendations to the Mayor.
- d) Oden and Bill briefly discussed some of Milford's "oat meal" lots that previously existed. These were for an actual deed to a small plot of land in Milford sponsored by

the buyers of Quaker Oatmeal. Boxes included a coupon redeemable for these small unbuildable parcels of land dating back the early 1900's.

- e) Wepawaug River Dredging. The City has received a Wepawaug Ponds Dredging Feasibility Study Report detailing available options for dredging the Wepawaug "duck" ponds and the Eisenhower Pond. This is an engineering study provided by Fuss & O'Neill. Bill briefly reviewed the initial stages of creating a Regional Alliance with Orange and Woodbridge to explore grant funding to help improve water quality, alleviate flooding problems and create a more functional river system by providing fish ladders and eel passage ways. This has been attempted previously but was not successful. Bill, Steve, Glen Mirmina, and Steve Kraffmiller from the OSAC felt this effort was worth re-exploring and looking for ways to improve our management of erosion, sedimentation, wildlife and including the geese problem along the duck ponds. Maureen was interested in joining the next planned meeting of this group on 2/25/13.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Johnson  
Vice-Chair, Conservation Commission

Minutes have not been approved by the Conservation Commission