

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Conservation Commission – City of Milford  
February 21, 2012**

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Maureen Mauro, Oden Seaholm, Keith Dunn, Jerry Loiselle, Dan Drago, Steve Johnson, Bill Blotney and Claire Casey.
2. **Minutes** – The minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.

3. **Executive Board** – Maureen gave an overview of each position on the Executive Board:

**Chair** – William Poutray

**Co-Chair**

**Treasurer**

**Secretary**

Maureen did serve last year as the Co-Chair, but will be unable to continue in that capacity due to personal commitments. She asked the commission members to think about this. The voting will take place at the March meeting.

4. **Unfinished Business**

- a) **Solomon Property** – Steve has mapped the Solomon property and passed around a map. Red dotted lines indicate trails, blue lines indicate streams and black lines indicate rock walls. While mapping the property, he did find some of the property pins. Steve did notify the city of some encroachments on this property. Steve is making a list of priorities for the Solomon property including posting more signs, identify the boundaries and hoping to encourage the public to walk the property. Dan Drago suggested having Steve bring the priority list to the next meeting so the commission members can collaborate with him on this. He is waiting to do a walk through of the property with Mary Rose Palumbo of Inland Wetlands. Steve is also putting together a five minute power point presentation based on photographs and some audio, including gun shots. Once he has completed this, he will post online and send the commission members a link. Steve sent an email to the Aldermen inviting them to take a walk through of the Solomon property which could be anywhere from 15 minutes to 2 hours. He will forward the email to the commission members so they may also attend the walk through. Maureen made the suggestion of having the commission members contact any Alderman that they know personally to discuss this with them. Bill Blotney asked if there might be a possibility of having the Board of Alderman send a letter to the neighbors surrounding the property. Steve said he did speak to a conservation officer in Shelton about a similar property with similar problems. She informed Steve of the procedure they used regarding sending warning letters as well as doing a media blitz in the newspapers and Facebook. She said this made a big difference. Jerry asked if there had been any media regarding the Solomon property. Steve said there has been sporadic articles in the newspaper.

#### **4.Unfinished Business (Cont'd)**

**a) Solomon Property (Cont'd)**

Steve feels it is important to educate and engage the people in Milford regarding this property. Steve said that the Mayor's Open Space Advisory Committee is up-to-date on the Solomon property and that Mayor Blake has been supportive as well.

**b) Earth Day**

Earth Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. centered around Eisenhower Park with other properties being targeted for cleanup. Keith Dunn mentioned that Vincent Piselli sent him an email asking if he could bring his tractor to Eisenhower Park for Earth Day. Maureen thought as a prelude to Earth Day, all commission members could pick up garbage in different areas with a goal of picking up 4,000 pieces of garbage. Maureen asked if the members would send her an email when they have picked up some garbage with a count which could also include where they picked the garbage up. Maureen's email address is [MMauro1tc@gmail.com](mailto:MMauro1tc@gmail.com). Claire Casey asked if the commission members do anything as a group on Earth Day. Maureen thought that would be a great idea and asked Claire to send her some ideas for this.

**c) Housatonic River Cleanup** –Bill Blotney passed around a flyer with information regarding the annual Housatonic River cleanup which will take place on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The meeting places are the Birdseye Street Boat Ramp in Stratford and the Sunnyside Boat Ramp in Shelton. This is a clean up effort along the river in Milford, Stratford and Shelton.

**d) Help Aquarion Water Company** – Maureen passed around a letter and a poster regarding a contest called “The Aquarion Environmental Champion Awards”. Awards of \$2,500 are being given to people in the name of an environmental non-profit organization. Students in grades 9 – 12 can be awarded a \$1,000 savings bond. The deadline for the contest is May 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a celebration with the naming of the awards on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**e) Plan of Conservation and Development** – Bill Poutray, Maureen Mauro and Steve Johnson met as a sub-committee last week to discuss the POCD. They discussed consistent language in the plan including looking at the language regarding the Milford Green, working on what are the targets for the future, and developing a list of properties that would be desirable for future open space acquisitions. Also discussed was the land manager idea with the possibility of grant resources and funding opportunities for this position. Maureen said that action agendas to look at from the current POCD are on Pages 20 and 151.

**e) Plan of Conservation and Development (Cont'd)**

The Milford GIS office printed out two copies of a map with Milford open space properties on it. Steve received one and the Mayor's Open Space Advisory Committee has the other map. He said it is difficult to determine where some of the open space is located because the roads are not labeled on the map. He has asked Emmeline for a list of all the open space properties with the addresses. Steve would like to see the major roads posted on the map. Keith Dunn mentioned that he received a great deal of paperwork from Dana Rotman who was a previous Conservation Commission member and has put it in the Conservation Commission office. He thought this might be of some help with this project. Steve mentioned that Shelton lists all their open space properties on their website. He said there are no walking trails listed on the City of Milford website. Maureen handed out a book put together by the ECC called "Milford Favorite Walks".

**5.Mission/Vision** – At the end of 2010, the Conservation Commission had started to put together a mission/vision statement which included Inventory/Open Space/Education. Steve is working on this statement. Maureen asked the commission members for their input on this.

**6.Conservation Commission Awards** – Maureen spoke about the awards that the commission gave out in 2010 and would like the commission members to think about this again in 2012 which would require a committee. She asked any commission members who might be interested to let her know.

**7. New Business** – Maureen told the commission members that the Recycling Plant discussed during past meetings has been approved. but that several Milford officials are looking at ways to reverse this decision. Maureen said that she will continue to monitor this project and Maureen will keep everyone posted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Berberich

Minutes not approved by the Commission