

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Conservation Commission – City of Milford
March 20, 2012**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call** – Bill Poutray, Claire Casey, Bill Blotney, Keith Dunn, Maureen Mauro, Oden Seaholm, Steve Johnson, Jerry Loiselle and guest Robin Delieto.
- 2. Public Comment** – Robin Delieto addressed the commission regarding flooding issues stemming from the Wepawaug River which is affecting the area of North Street and the Post Road when there is rain. Bill told Robin he is aware of the problem she was discussing and asked her to forward him a copy of the letter she sent to Mayor Blake.
- 3. Review Minutes** – The minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
- 4. Unfinished Business**
 - a) Solomon Property – Steve Johnson, Keith Dunn and Bill Poutray did a walk through of the Solomon property with Aldermen Bryan Anderson to help raise awareness of the property. Mary Rose Palumbo and Emmeline Harrigan, in an unofficial capacity, along with members of the Southwest Conservation District also walked the property to look at the habitat, wetlands, encroachments and problems resulting from ATV's in the area. The Southwest Conservation District agreed to spend a half day to work on the some projects that would be beneficial to the Solomon property around mid-April. Steve is in discussion with Bill Poutray about what these projects might be, possibly a walking bridge. Steve also suggested this might be an opportunity for an Eagle Scout project. Steve said he is looking into a DEP grant for recreational trail programs that would be suited for the Solomon Property.
 - b) Earth Day – Claire agreed to have a booth at Earth Day and hand out trash bags and copies of "Milford Favorite Walks, Water & Trails". Maureen announced that the effort for commissioners to pick up 4,000 pieces of trash prior to Earth Day has hit the 2,000 mark. Keith Dunn will be bringing a tractor to help Vincent Piselli with pick up efforts on Earth Day.
 - c) Housatonic River Clean-Up – Bill Blotney gave a brief summary of this project which he spoke about at the February meeting. The clean-up will take place on Saturday, April 28th 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.

- d) Plan of Conservation and Development – Bill Poutray said that Betsy Wright is researching open space properties that could possibly be acquired by the city. Bill is also meeting with Betsy Wright, Letty Malone and Steve Johnson as a joint committee to research properties. Steve Johnson has been looking at other communities that have a land manager to research the job description and to see how this model works for other towns. Steve Johnson, Maureen Mauro and Dan Drago will get together to work on the language for a possible land manager to be put into the Plan of Conservation and Development.
- e) Mission/Vision – The commission members briefly discussed the mission/vision for The Conservation Commission.
- f) Election of Officers:
The following have been elected unanimously:
 - Chair – Bill Poutray
 - Co-Chair – Steve Johnson
 - Secretary – Claire Casey

5. New Business

- a) Press Conference – Bill Poutray represented Mayor Blake at a press conference in Hartford and made a statement against the proposed repeal of the current law prohibiting the use of pesticides on elementary and middle school properties in Connecticut. Bill said that pesticides have not been used in over twenty years at any of the schools or playing fields in Milford.
- b) State of Connecticut Open Space Grant – The DEEP has recently announced that funds are available to assist cities and towns and land conservation organizations with the purchase and preservation of open space lands through the State of Connecticut Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program. At least \$5 million is available for this round of open space grants.
- c) Beaverbrook Pilot Project – Mayor Blake is interested in using some of the Beaverbrook fund to pilot a maintenance project in the Beaverbrook. The plan is to employ several high school students work to do restoration work on the open space over the summer. Bill will speak to Annaliese Spaziano, Principal of The Academy.
- d) Plans – Two sets of plans were shown to the commission members:
Pop's Restaurant – New building at 134 Old Gate Lane; Inland & Wetlands has already approved the new building and 54 Wilson Street – sub-division.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Berberich

Minutes not approved by the Commission