

**Minutes of the
Conservation Commission – City of Milford
Tuesday, March 21, 2017 – 6 p.m.
Parsons Conference Room A, Parson's Government Center**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Claire Casey, Dan Drago, Ryan Keeler, Keith Dunn, Janet McAllister, Carolyn Alling, Oden Seaholm, and Howard Haberman

Absent: Jerry Loiselle

Staff Liaison – Steve Johnson, Open Space & Natural Resource Agent

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments – Cheryl Cappiali attended.

4. Minutes – February 21, 2017, Claire Casey motioned to accept as submitted, Ryan Keeler seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes passed 8:0.

5. New Business

- a) New P&Z Application – 553 West Avenue. Commissioners asked for:
 - 1. Specific language from the easement agreements pertaining to the marsh maintenance obligations including the invasive Phragmites, other invasive vegetation and native vegetation to support a healthy ecosystem. Johnson will consult with our legal department for comment.
 - 2. Links to the Inland Wetland Agency minutes reviewing the application. This can be referenced at http://www.ci.milford.ct.us/sites/milfordct/files/minutes/minutes-file/miwa_minutes_2016-09-21_0.pdf
 - 3. Johnson will check with applicant to schedule a special site visit on April 4th or April 6th at 5:30 p.m.
- b) 553 West Avenue, Beaver Brook Boardwalk Invitation to Bid, Phase 2. Johnson updated commissioners on the Phase 2 for demolition, site preparation and construction activities.

6. Unfinished Business Updates

- a) Keith Dunn motioned to add a new agenda item, Bluebird box project. Dan seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes passed 7:0 (Claire Casey had to leave for another commitment.)
- b) Bluebird Box project. Johnson reviewed the project overview. Cheryl Cappiali applied for a MEPI grant on behalf of the Milford Garden Club to purchase supplies to mount the boxes. The estimated cost of materials is \$575.00. If the funding is approved, Janet requested volunteer help to install boxes in suitable locations. Oden Seaholm can help select sites. Johnson will contact Board of Education to seek schools interested in sites and helping to monitor the nest boxes.
- c) 701 North Street - discussion on the next steps.
 - 1. Keith Dunn will check with orchard friend to see the trees to offer suggestions for possible cluster to trees to keep for pollinators and habitat.

2. Other orchard areas can be selected for dead snags, creating pollinator condos for native cavity nesting bees.
 3. Once the tree areas are identified to keep or remove, Johnson will mock up some possible layouts of pedestrian walking paths to review with the commission.
 4. Janet McAllister commented that once the trees are removed, we need to plan on a way to manage the expected invasive pressures. Possible dense seeded fescue grass could help suppress the invasives and gradually introduce pollinator friendly plantings. Select early to late season blooming plants.
 5. This could provide study areas showing invasive management without pesticides, along-side unmanaged areas.
 6. Once we have a concept layout, we can review with the Mayor, Public Works and Milford Arts Council for any collaborative opportunities.
- d) Application Development Checklist - The draft checklist created by Janet McAllister based on suggestions from the sub-committee will be updated to include a revision date of 3/21/17. Ryan Keeler motioned to accept as noted. Keith Dunn seconded the motion. The motion was accepted 7:0.
1. A glossary addendum would be beneficial. Janet McAllister will add this as an addendum for future review.
- e) Open Space Monitoring Checklist – Dan Drago handed out the simple draft checklist form people can use to communicate conditions and their trail experience. Discussion talked about suggestions for refining the form for final use and distribution. Once completed, the form will be linked to the existing Open Space Trail brochures. Also possibly available at the Milford Library or to be included in a welcome packet distributed to new residents. The group also viewed an electronic version of the form that can be used on a tablet or smartphone as an alternative to the paper version. The electronic form could be accessed via a link on website or Facebook.
- f) Commissioner Liaisons Updates to Boards and Commissions: Johnson provided updates on MLCT, Milford Trees, Harbor Management Commission. Howard Haberman will be the liaison to P&Z. Ryan Keeler offered to be the liaison to the Economic and Community Development commission.
7. Motion to Adjourn was made by Dan Drago and seconded by Keith Dunn at 7:40 p.m. Motion passed 7:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Johnson

Open Space and Natural Resource Agent.

These minutes have not been accepted or approved.