

The Conservation Commission – City of Milford
Tuesday, April 15, 2015 – 6 p.m.
Conference Room A, Parson's Government Center

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Call to Order/Roll Call

Present: Bill Poutray (Ch), Steven Johnson (V-Ch), Claire Casey (Sec), Oden Seaholm, Jerry Loiselle, Dan Drago, Keith Dunne

Absent: Vicki Battle, Maureen Mauro-Desantie

3. Public Comments

4. Minutes – for March 18, 2014, meeting were approved unanimously.

5. Unfinished Business

a) 460 Bic Drive, 8-30g 273 Units proposed – Low Impact Development (LID) Letter **Mr. Johnson** advised that the letter is still to come. At the last meeting, the group discussed creating recommendation guidelines for LID letters with proposed comments on such issues as impervious walkways and incorporation of rain gardens. Review of plantings will probably be done by the Tree Commission. **Mr. Drago** had suggested a perimeter sidewalk for this particular development at the last meeting.

b) Commissioner Stewardship – Open Space Parcel adoptions - DEEP OS 4 parcels

Mr. Johnson got a call from DEEP's land management office and was told that for the 1st time in 10 years, DEEP is doing land checks on state-funded parcels. The inspections assess compliance with conditions attached to the funding. He listed the sites: 1.) Wampus Lane, 30 acres; 2.) a parcel off North Street between 2 houses with a 20' Right of Way (ROW), 8 acres; 3.) D'Amato parcel near the Housatonic River, segmented parcels amounting to about 30+ acres; ; 4.) a parcel off Fresh Meadow lane known as the Geib property. All were submitted to DEEP for grant funding. Within the grant application, commitments were made by the City to provide such features as public access, trails, access to rivers, (Indian/Housatonic), conservation, habitat areas. Within 6 months of funding, the City was to have posted signs to make the public aware of access points saying that the areas had been funded by DEEP and City. We failed on all properties, but this has been typical of many communities during the compliance checking. **Mr. Johnson** told the mayor he'd do an initial assessment on what was required and create a timeline for compliance. He further stated that he has opted not to apply for an Open Space grant, due to the risk of not passing the compliance test. He said the City has done well in acquiring properties, less well at maintaining them. He said the exercise is a good springboard for basic monitoring; he said he intended to look for ways to collaborate with DPW. **Mr. Poutray** asked about nature of signs; **Mr. Johnson** said there are standards for them and they discussed placement. **Mr. Dunne** asked about an agricultural use of a long-term farm parcel on site. There was discussion of dumping in city public spaces, which will also part of the assessment.

Mr. Johnson said these DEEP sites will be part of properties needing periodic observation in addition to site planned for volunteer monitoring such as Eisenhower, Mondo Ponds, etc. He noted the benefit of beginning with group walks to share expertise.

Mr. Johnson reported the removal of a bow hunting tree stand in the Solomon parcel by persons unknown after the Engineering Department flagged lot lines showing it to be on City property. He cited this as an example of a good use of monitoring activity. He said he will be meeting with MPD to review recommendations on dealing with safety issues for people monitoring these properties. He expects these talks may produce proposed ordinance changes and alignment with similar state statutes. **Mr. Poutray** said work should be started for a plan to divide properties among the commissioners to be reviewed at the next meeting. **Mr. Johnson** said he will meet with neighbors of some properties to discuss concerns about teen parties, litter, pet waste, etc.

c) Milford Earth Day, Saturday, May 17th – Wilcox Park

Mr. Johnson said an effort has begun to streamline activities. He said there would be service projects from 8:30-11:30 with registration near the Fowler Field tennis courts. He said the Rotary Club EcoFest would be held the same day from 11:00-4:00 in an attempt combine Earth Day service with Rotary Club education. **Ms. Casey** will have a table there. Subway will provide sandwiches to volunteers. **Mr. Johnson** noted an offer from Ann Taylor (their corporate office is off Wheelers Farm Road) do afternoon of caring service. He said he had worked on the tent approval from DPW for 50 or so people to start project on worldwide Earth Day. Focus at Wilcox to be building habitat piles, closing spur trails in erosion areas, and addressing some near hazardous trees. He noted that Shipyard Lane runs through to Harborside Avenue and is heavily traveled. He said the road would be widened once edges are cleared of leaf litter and compost, gaining perhaps as much as 5'-6' of roadway. **Mr. Johnson** would like to see it striped for pedestrian walkway. **Mr. Poutray** said people use it as a driving cutoff road and he hoped it could be redesigned to reduce traffic using such things as speed bumps.

Mr. Johnson did an Earth Day outreach project to K-2 students at Live Oaks K-2, which was very well received. He will discuss with Mike Cummings and produce copies of his PPT presentation to share with teachers.

d) Grants

Mr. Johnson said the STEAP grant was accepted by the Board of Aldermen. He reviewed the 2 watershed grants, saying water sampling must be started, as well as noting other grants received. He discussed training for macro invertebrate identification to help with water testing, noting that he and Lori Romick did 4 Saturday trainings. He said Eisenhower Lodge was be a good location for such events. Hoping to do stream walk training for comm. He reviewed the Building LI Sound Futures Fund grant program, saying the City didn't get it last year, but did well and was encouraged to reapply with to improvements to the proposal for next year. He also noted the America the Beautiful grant, which requires a customer survey. **Mr. Drago, Mr. Poutray, and Mr. Johnson** will meet to organize and analyze the potential opportunity. There was discussion of collaboration with Orange and Woodbridge as well.

Mr. Loiselle moved and **Mr. Seaholm** seconded adding a new agenda item to new business, the motion carried.

e) Eco Collaboration event A Friday falling in the 1-2 week in November was suggested. **Mr. Drago** was asked to see if Subway donations were available.

6. New Business

Plans for commissioners to adopt parcels will be presented next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48.

Respectfully submitted,

M.E. Greene