

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Conservation Commission
City of Milford
April 21, 2009**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – Bill Poutray, Maureen Mauro, Carolyn Greer, Danielle Bercury, Keith Dunn, Dan Drago and Carol Dunn.
2. Public Comment – No public comments.
3. Old Business
 - a) Yale Forestry School – Vincent Piselli reported to Bill that the forestry student from Yale that had attended a previous conservation meeting is no longer at Yale. Vincent did report to Bill that there are foresters available through the Connecticut Extension Service Co-op and they would be happy to give a presentation to the Conservation Commission. Bill will coordinate this with Vincent. Danielle asked if it would be possible to include a site visit as part of this presentation. Bill feels that Beaver Brook would be a good first site. He would like to define a small project and if it is successful, the commission can move on from there. Maureen suggested asking our state representatives if there are any grants that might be available for conservation. Bill will call Dick Roy to inquire about this. A questions was also raised about using part of the Barth Fund for this project.

Danielle reported she was looking at a website from the US Department of Agriculture which states as part of the stimulus package, there is an initiative with funding available for local and state agencies who are working with owners/operators of land. Danielle put her name on their mailing list. She said there was also a mention of a Conservation Stewardship Initiative with details to be announced in the future.

- b) Downs House Property – Milford Hospital no longer needs this land. Bill said that Jeanne Cervin and Letty Malone have been looking into the open space fund. There is \$196,000 available for open space requisition. Letty Malone is continuing to investigate details of the open space fund. Bill reports there is still interest in the water company property off Burnt Plains Road and that a decision has to be made on this by the summer. Carolyn Greer did some research on the open space fund and located minutes from a meeting in March 2007 regarding the city's purchase of Cadley Farm. She read from the minutes that there were two accounts mentioned: The P & Z Open Space Fund and the Park, Recreation and Open Space Subdivision Regulation Fund. It was mentioned that when sub-divisions are built, it is required that a certain percentage of the land remain open space. If this does not happen, a certain amount per square foot has to be paid to the open space fund.
- c) MCC role in farmland preservation – Letty Malone is trying to get the Milford farmers together to work on farmland preservation. She has put together information she gathered regarding the farmland in Milford into a brochure with a list of all of Milford's dry land farms. Bill asked Keith if he would be available to attend an Open Space Advisory Meeting which are held the third Thursday of every month. He also asked if it would be possible to meet with Terry Jones from Jones Tree Farm in Shelton.
- d) Earth Day – Vincent will discuss this at the May meeting.
- e) Open Space Walks - Dan Drago reports that Barbara Milton is in charge of this group. There have been three walks so far; Beaver Brook, Wilcox Park and Mondo Pond. He said there are eight walks scheduled altogether. Dan will get the schedule from Barbara and email the commission members. Ann Berman has a section in the weekly Milford newspaper about conservation issues. A suggestion was made to have this schedule listed in this part of the newspaper. Carol also suggested the area behind Centennial Drive as a good open space walk. This area is near the Housatonic River and skirts the golf course by marshland. She said the area is in need of a clean up and suggested this might be a project for the Conservation Commission.
- f) Silver Sands Boardwalk – The city is trying to resurrect this project.
- g) Furniture Row – Carol had nothing new to report on this project.

4. New Business

- a) Kingdom Life/Beaver Brook – Vincent spoke to members of the Kingdom Life church and will discuss this at the May meeting. Bill said he will ask Barbara Milton to write a summary of the acquisition of Beaver Brook by Kingdom Life in order to clarify some details.
- b) Monofilament boxes – Carol Dunn reported that the DEP is instituting a program which will put monofilament recycling boxes for fishermen in strategic fishing areas. Carol passed around a picture of an Osprey that became entangled in monofilament line and was found hanging from the Osprey nest at Great Island in Old Lyme. Carol is going to post this picture along with an article at the Audubon Society to make people aware of this problem.
- c) 417 Gulf Street – Bill spoke to David Sulkis regarding the lack of plans the Conservation Commission is receiving. David says he feels the Conservation Commission's purview is open space that has not been disturbed in a long time.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19th at 7:30 p.m. The members will meeting in the Conservation office at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berberich

Minutes not approved by the Commission