

**fMinutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Conservation Commission – City of Milford  
May 18, 2010**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call** – Bill Poutray, Carol Dunn, Oden Seaholm, Dan Drago, Maureen Mauro, Keith Dunn and guests Letty Malone and Steve Kraffmiller.
- 2. Review Minutes** – The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
- 3. Old Business**
  - a) Furniture Row** – Carol gave an update and reported that the “brew” put into the soil has had very good results and everything is contained.
  - b) Oronoque Road Variance Petition** – Bill reported that this petition was tabled again at the ZBA hearing. There was a question if the notice for this petition was done properly. Only two neighbors were notified and several other neighbors were upset about this. Danielle Bercury is representing Maria from Macri Farms. There is a concern about the run off on the property. There is a possibility that the farm could be deemed “soil of local importance” which would then create a higher level of concern for the property.
  - c) Seminar** – Maureen reported she has tried to make contact with a representative from the Northeast Director of Land Trust Alliance who did a workshop at the CACWIC meeting. Unfortunately she has not received a call back. She will continue to try.

**4. Unfinished Business**

**Mayor’s Open Space Advisory Committee Raw Survey Results** – Bill had asked the commission members to look over this survey in order to dedicate the majority of the May meeting to discussing it.

Bill explained that there had been a random group and an online group that responded to this survey. Both groups had strong feelings of the concept of maintaining open space as well as realizing that the city has limited resources to accomplish this.

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

Letty Malone suggested that it would be worthwhile to get Dan Worrell from the Park, Beach and Recreation Commission involved as well as Mark Lofthouse. Letty also made the suggestion of getting the Historical Society involved. She said that several stone walls in Eisenhower Park have never been mapped out because there are no resources to do this work. Keith Dunn said there was a time when these walls were used as boundaries in the park. Letty thought there might be a way for the Historical Society to obtain grant money in order to map out these walls. The point was made that The Deluca Foundation from Subway had provided a grant for the Mondo Pond restoration project. It was reiterated that this grant made this project possible and this is an example of how to continue work in other open space areas in Milford.

Bill will get in touch with Jill Dion from The Milford Mirror regarding the Mondo Ponds event on June 5<sup>th</sup>. He would like this event well attended. He feels the number one priority is the restoration of our existing parks and general maintenance and it is very important to get the public involved. Dan Drago will speak to the Director of Corporate Communications at Subway to see if this event has been publicized. Dan suggested the Mondo Ponds project should be used as a model to show other companies in the area how Subway got involved and see if they might also like to get involved. There was a suggestion that a “park fund” might be established through Milford Bank or the Rotary so people or companies could make contributions.

Steve Kraffmiller spoke about a grant The Tree Commission had received several years ago from Iroquois for \$25,000 and the DEP for the restoration of Wilcox Park. This money was used to install an observation platform, repair existing trails, put in some plantings and signs. Steve also mentioned that Iroquois gives an annual grant to any town where their gas lines go through.

Bill feels it would be a good idea to develop a long term coalition to create a model on how to bring volunteers into the parks. Letty also made the point that these projects also help the children that are involved as in Analiese’s Mondo Ponds project. Letty said children who might have trouble in a regular classroom setting would benefit from projects like Mondo Ponds. Another example of this is The Student Conservation Association based in New Hampshire that utilizes “at risk” youth to work on these projects.

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

Carol Dunn mentioned that Kathy Kobishyn and members of the Garden Club are working on scourging the growth of invasive species and planting native plants near Gulf Pond. Kathy is trying to secure grant money for signage for this project. Carol said she would speak to her contact at the DEP to see how the signage was obtained for The Audubon Society. Kathy has spoken to two scout leaders about some girl scouts getting involved with this project as a way to earn badges.

In summary, Bill reiterated that the first step is to get as many people as possible to convene a group to work on how to continue the work that has been started at Mondo Ponds.

#### **5. New Business**

- a) **Managing Conservation Lands** – Letty Malone handed out a summary of a book she passed around, “Managing Conservation Lands”, the stewardship of conservations areas, wildlife sanctuaries, and open space in Massachusetts.
- b) **Freedom of Information Workshop** – Bill handed out a memo from Mayor Richetelli inviting all boards and commission chairmen and vice-chairmen to a free Freedom of Information 101 workshop on Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> in the City Hall auditorium at either 2 p.m. or 6 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berberich

Minutes not approved by the Commission