

The Conservation Commission – City of Milford
Tuesday, May 20, 2014 – 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), Jerry Loiselle, Maureen Mauro-Desantie,
Absent: Oden Seaholm, Vicki Battle, Dan Drago, Keith Dunn

3. Public Comments

4. Minutes – for April 15, 2014, meeting. **Mr. Loiselle** provided some edits to correct grammar but these did not alter the substance of the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Unfinished Business

a) 460 Bic Drive, 8-30g 273 Units proposed – Low Impact Development (LID) Letter **Mr. Poutray** drafted the following statement to be considered for the LID letter.

"The Milford Conservation Commission recommends voluntary consideration of Low Impact Development features such as rain gardens, green spaces, and pervious pavement wherever feasible to reduce stormwater runoff, reduce summer temperatures, improve aesthetics and generally enhance quality of life for residents and the surrounding community".

This was approved unanimously. **Mr. Poutray** and **Johnson** will submit the letter on behalf of the Conservation Commission.

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

Mr. Johnson updated the commissioners on three of the site visits he did on Wednesday, May 7th. He visited the parcel off North Street between 2 houses with a 20' Right of Way (ROW), 8 acres; D'Amato parcel near the Housatonic River, segmented parcels amounting to about 30+ acres; a parcel off Fresh Meadow lane known as the Geib property. In addition to all four parcels needing DEEP approved signs, two of the three parcels he visited will need trail development and extensive invasive management to meet the conditions of the DEEP Open Space Grant applications. The fourth location at Wampus Lane has not yet been surveyed. This location will need trail development efforts to access the Indian River and invasive management.

Milford's Open Space and other undeveloped woodlands, wetlands, and tidal marshes continue to be the target of illegal dumping, encroachment, and off-road vehicles that cause substantial damage to these conservation areas. **Mr. Johnson** is interested in creating a "living next to nature" public education program to raise awareness and understanding promoting stewardship strategies. **Mr. Loiselle** was interested in developing a broad based community support for these efforts. **Mr. Johnson** is seeking ways for DPW to collaborate in these projects as well. **Mr. Poutray** added that the Open Space Golf Course fund needs to be included in future discussions since this fund was intended to also provide maintenance of passive open space areas as well as golf course maintenance.

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

Mr. Johnson reported that the Earth Day service project was a success. There was a lower volunteer turnout with about 75-100 people participating. 100 native woodland flowers were planted along the entrance steps leading up from the Harbor Boat Launch parking area. Volunteers removed invasive Norway Maple saplings, Burning Bush shrubs, Japanese Barberry, Multi Flora Rose and Oriental Bittersweet from several acres. Poison Ivy was removed from some main trail edges and the trails were raked of leaves. Other side trails were blocked with the woody debris to also keep people away from hazardous trees. A large habitat brush pile was created in a ravine area. **Ms. Casey**

organized and staffed a Milford Conservation table during the Milford Rotary Eco Fest activities that took place from 11 am – 3 pm. Milford Favorite Walk books and other information was distributed.

d) Grants

- a. **Mr. Johnson** received some help from **Mr. Poutray** and **Mr. Drago** on the ATB Survey. A draft of the survey should be ready for the next Conservation Commission meeting. The America the Beautiful grant will not be completed due to a number of reasons. In the future, the in-kind services need to have stronger stakeholder support to fulfill grant commitments.
- b. The CT Agriculture Viability Grant will begin the water quality monitoring this summer at specified locations along the Wepawaug River in Milford.

e) June 7th – CT Trails Day Hikes will be held at Mondo Ponds at 10 – 11:30 am and at Solomon Woods from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

6. New Business

- a) Stone Preserve, LLC, 6 Lot Sub-division, 701 North Street. This item was tabled until the next meeting since **Ms. Casey** and **Ms. Mauro-Desantie** had to leave before this item could be discussed. It will be discussed at the next Conservation Commission meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Johnson