

Milford Conservation Commission Meeting took place at Walnut Beach on September 16th, 2014

Present at the meeting: Bill Poutray, Steve Johnson, Jerry Loiselle, Maureen Mauro-Desantie, Dan Drago, Claire Casey

Absent: Keith Dunn, Oden Seaholm,

Approve minutes of June 17th, meeting

Public Comment: Ann Ives, see attached document

Also speaking was Angela Gartz, 85 Viscount Drive.14c

- She was under the impression that the parking area was for Handicap spots.
- Dangerous to back out.
- It would be a good idea to have valet service for those who are attending concerts.
- During the last few storms The Berm has saved us from flooding.
- Does not see the necessity of cutting down trees.
- More trees should be planted.

Beverly Genovese also spoke about her concerns about The Berm.

- Thought trees were marked to give more room.

General Comments

- We walked the area as we talked about the issue at hand.
- There are no formal plans that have been created, just conceptual plans.
- The Fire Chief sent a letter to Chris Saley about his concerns for the access for rescues and emergency calls in that specific area.
- Chris Saley had 3 particular items in mind for the area, and other ideas that he commented on.
 - 1. Help improve Emergency Access
 - 2. Help improve capacity for parking

- 3. Low impact development techniques.
 - Incorporate habitat restoration of the Berm.
 - Possibly put in a Bio-Swale, and features plants with native vegetation
 - Pervious pavement is a possibility.
 - There are no deed restrictions
 - 18 acres is zoned as Open Space. 9 1/2 acres represent The Berm.

Jerry Loiselle voiced his concerns about the use of government money to complete project in this area.

- He has been present for the concerts, and thinks that there is too much activity on a small piece of property
- There are alternatives, such as running shuttles from other locations to the events at Walnut Beach.
- He has also witnessed Fire Dept taking part in exercises, and well as, fighting a fire in the area.

Bill Poutray felt there are parking alternatives that should be considered.

- If more parking is necessary, there are other solutions, other than cutting down trees that protect the area from flooding and hurricane damage.
- Extra capacity in other areas, such as East Broadway and the land next to Senior Housing are possibilities.
- We can't ignore the past storms. It has been a proven flood barrier when all surrounding areas have flooded
- We need to protect the rest of the berm, preventing it from becoming a parking area or other development in the future.

Steve Johnson showed photos of the location over time and commented on the location, as well.

- Since it has been developed, there have been many land changes over time.
- The Vegetation has grown in naturally
- The Meadow area has been consistent.
- It is a unique, coastal habitat

- We must maintain and improve the habitat by managing invasive plants and trees while planting native vegetation.

7:04 meeting was adjourned.