

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Conservation Commission
City of Milford
September 17, 2008

1. Roll Call – Bill Poutray, Oden Seaholm, Carol Dunn, Carolyn Greer, Vincent Piselli, Danielle Bercury and guests Diane Vasseur and Rocco Frank.
2. Review of previous meeting's minutes – The minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
3. Bill officially welcomed Danielle Bercury to the Milford Conservation Commission. She was sworn in by the city clerk at the Board of Alderman meeting.
4. Old Business
 - a) Attendance
 1. Bi-Law Committee – Danielle and Bill will work via email to put together a first draft of the bi-laws. Once the language is established, Bill will email the bi-laws to the other commission members. It was agreed that the attendance portion will read that Conservation Commission members must attend nine out of the twelve meetings per year, within reason. If this attendance requirement is not met, the member can be asked to step aside by the Chairman. Members are also asked to contact the Chairman in advance if they will not be able to attend a meeting. This will enable the Commission to determine whether a quorum will be met and any business that might be affected by a particular member's absence. It was also agreed that Tuesday will be the new meeting day. Carol will make the appropriate change with the city.
 2. John Vanacore –Bill has sent two letters and phoned John Vanacore with no reply. John's term ends on 12/31/08.
 3. Potential new members – Diane Vasseur, whose background concerns recycling, is considering acting in an advisory capacity. Bill has spoken to a structural engineer about possibly joining the Conservation Commission or acting as a technical advisor. It is noted in the bi-laws that the Conservation Commission can have three associate, non-voting members who act in an advisory capacity.

- b) P & Z Subcommittee – Bill will arrange a meeting with the P & Z subcommittee members (Bill, Carol, Carolyn and Danielle) and Jeanne Cervin and Victor Ferrante from P & Z. Monday is the best day for Jeanne and Victor, so Bill will arrange this meeting to be held within the next month. Danielle may not be able to attend on a Monday. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss conservation issues relative to P & Z.
- c) Student Conservation Commission – Shu Ming, a student at the Yale Forestry School and her sister were guests at the meeting. Shu Ming is an expert in forestry management. Vincent passed around a natural area management plan that had been put together for the New Canaan Nature Center. He gave this to Shu Ming along with a CD of the proposed restoration plan for Eisenhower Park. Shu Ming was asked if she would be interested in forming a partnership with the Milford Conservation Commission. The purpose would be to develop a forestry management plan for a given area or areas within Milford's publicly owned open spaces.

Bill suggested that since there is a fund available of \$36,000 for Beaver Brook, that this could be a good place to start. Shu Ming will ask her professor from Yale, Chad Oliver, to accompany her to the Beaver Brook property to meet with the Conservation Commission on a weekend for a walk through and get his input on what needs to be done and how to prioritize it. The idea was also brought up to have students from Yale get involved with a project. Bill brought up the fact that Milford Trees/Tree Commission would have to be involved with this. Diane said she helped to do the data input on the tree inventory in Milford and believes it is in the GIS system.

Diane suggested a good way to get a large number of people involved is something called a “bio blitz” which is organized through National Geographic magazine and attracts top scientists throughout the country. An inventory of every type of species is counted in a specific area. The city would have to request a “bio blitz” through the National Geographic. This suggestion was taken under advisement and tabled for future consideration.

Following the SCA presentation on August 27th, Laura Herrin will be putting together a draft of a plan for Milford. Bill was interested in seeing if both Laura and Shu Ming would be interested in attending the next Mayor's Open Space meeting sometime in November. He will get the date. He was also interested in seeing if Laura might be able to attend an upcoming Conservation Commission meeting. Since Laura travels from New Hampshire, Vincent will determine which of the two meetings she would be able to attend.

- d) Open Space Meeting – Downs Property – Milford Hospital has offered the city of Milford \$650,00 for 1.8 acres for the land right behind the Downs House and Paul's Hamburgers. Milford Hospital has already been approved for two additional buildings next to their walk-in center on the Post Road and needs additional parking. Bill showed everyone an overhead map of the piece of property and explained it would be "landlocked" and therefore would not be usable for open space if the Downs House is sold to a private individual. The Milford Historical Society has concerns about the Downs House if which is not part of the property that Milford Hospital wants to purchase.

Tim Chaucer is in favor of making the Downs House a museum. Bill points out it would very expensive to historically restore and maintain this house as a museum. Bill is in favor of selling the Downs to be used as a single family house. He has composed a letter to this effect which he showed to the members. Danielle agreed that the Milford Conservation Commission should send a letter to the city and go on the record with their recommendations. Among those recommendations is that Milford Hospital use creative landscaping to mitigate the effect of clearing and paving for the proposed parking area. If this goes through, \$320,000 should go back to the Open Space fund which is currently empty. One potential use for this fund would be to partially fund the purchase of former watershed land, Burnt Plains Road that has been offered for sale to the City. Representatives from Milford Hospital will be meeting in the near future with the Mayor's Open Space Committee to discuss the sale of the forest land behind the Downs House.

- e) 460 Gulf Street – nothing new.
- f) Furniture Row – Injection wells have been put in place. During the first week of October, lab growth bacteria will be placed into the wells to start the bio-remediation.
- g) Website Development – No funds currently available for website development. It may be possible for the MIS Department to provide some assistance.
- h) Lamination – Bill gave Maureen Mauro the measurements for lamination of the maps Carol brought to an earlier meeting. Maureen will get a price for the lamination.
- i) No new plans this month. Bill has received the spreadsheet from the intern working for Barbara Milton. He will send it to Carol Dunn.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, 2008.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berberich

Minutes not approved by the commission