

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Conservation Commission – City of Milford
September 18, 2012**

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Steve Johnson, Maureen Mauro DeSantie, Bill Blotney, Oden Seaholm, Jerry Loiselle, Claire Casey, Dan Drago and Keith Dunn.
2. **Public Comments** – No public comment.
3. **Review Minutes** – The minutes from the June meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
4. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Environmental Groups future gatherings – Maureen handed out an outline regarding this subject called “Eco Collaboration” which she and Claire Casey put together. The agenda of the meeting will be education based on the Plan of Conservation and Development 10 year plan. They outlined all groups with an “eco” interest in Milford who would be extended invitations. The people invited would be able to respond via “Survey Monkey”. A few questions will be included in the RSVP in order for Maureen and Claire to ascertain which topics should be discussed and possibly make arrangements to have a speaker on the topics chosen. Claire is going to speak to Paul Piscitelli from the Recreation Department about securing either the Fowler pavilion or the Walnut Beach pavilion for the meeting and check to see if there is a fee for this. The meeting attendees would have to bring their own chairs. Dan Drago spoke to the facilities manager at Subway to see if it would be possible to use meeting space at Subway headquarters during the week for possibly an evening meeting. He will find out how many people the space accommodates. Steve asked Keith Dunn if the farmers might like to be involved with this group. Keith said he would be happy to speak to the other farmers in Milford and report out at this meeting. Maureen feel there could be anywhere between 40 and 100 people involved with this meeting. Maureen also mentioned that she will be meeting with Kathy Alagno next week regarding the Green Business Council.
 - b. Open Space/Natural Resources Agent Position – This position has been approved for one year in the amount of \$45,000. Mayor Blake spoke to Planning and Zoning and the Board of Aldermen regarding this position. The money will be taken from one of the Open Space funds. Several people spoke on behalf of this position including Bill Poutray and Letty Malone who responded to specific questions and displayed a pictorial presentation. All members of the Board of Alderman were supplied with a group of pictures to look at prior to the meeting. The position will be set up as a temporary/seasonal for one year with the intent of having the position become self-funded through grants. It will be considered a consulting (1099) position with no city benefits. The logistics and selection process are still being worked out. Steve said in the interest of full disclosure, he was interested in applying for the position.

- c. Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) – Bill Poutray submitted revisions for the POCD to Emmeline Harrigan. Emmeline is still making changes. Jerry Loiselle brought a copy of a suggestion for a revision to the POCD he submitted as a private citizen regarding the berm by the Heritage Sound Condominium. Steve told Jerry he would speak to Emmeline about the language regarding “berms”.
- d. Solomon Property – Steve and Bill Blotney spoke about the ongoing ATV issues within the Solomon property. Milford Police have been surveying the property. On July 4th, Steve was invited to meet Channel 3 & 8 at the Solomon property with Officer Jeff Nielsen to discuss the problems. Two people were arrested on the afternoon of July 4th for riding their ATV’s in the property. The police reached out to the management of the Avalon property and they added 25 additional blocks by Wolf Harbor Road and posted more signs.

5. New Business

- a. Emerald Ash Borer – New Haven County – Steve spoke about the Emerald Ash Borer which is an invasive insect now discovered in Connecticut. It is the most destructive insect in North America and attacks green, blue and white Ash trees. It was first discovered in 2008 in Michigan. A quarantine was set up; however, it was not soon or wide enough. It has now migrated to the East and South and is in 21 states. Steve took a tour of an area in Prospect, Connecticut which has had Ash trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer. There have been traps set up in some Ash trees for monitoring, but the traps are now coming down for the season. The trees can be chemically treated, but it would have to be done by a licensed arborist.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berberich

Minutes not approved by the Commission