

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Conservation Commission – City of Milford
October 16, 2012**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll** – Steve Johnson, Maureen Mauro, Claire Casey, Jerry Loiselle, Keith Dunn, Oden Seaholm, Bill Blotney and Dan Drago.
- 2. Public Comments** – No public comment.
- 3. Review Minutes** – The minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
- 4. Unfinished Business**
 - a) Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) – Steve Johnson spoke to Emmeline and a new draft has been completed including public comments. This draft is available on the Planning & Zoning website. It is still considered a work in progress. The next step will be to present it to the Regional Council of Governments and the Board of Alderman. There will be a public hearing on December 18th to adopt the Plan of Conservation and Development in its final form. Steve mentioned that a section on aquaculture has been added and stated that the POCD is a policy guidance document and doesn't regulate specifics. There were three meetings this summer to discuss the POCD.
 - b) Eco Collaboration – Maureen reported that with the assistance of Dan Drago, she has secured a meeting room at Subway World Headquarters to hold the Eco Collaboration meeting at no charge. The target date for the meeting is Friday, April 5th from 6 – 8 p.m. A core group of people will meet after the holidays in January to work on the agenda for the meeting and an invitation list. Maureen said the Plan of Conservation and Development will be used as the main piece for this meeting. Maureen will stay in touch with Dan Drago on the meeting room details and thanked him for his assistance with this. Steve is going to send her a member list of city commissions and boards as possible contacts for the meeting. She also mentioned that she and Claire will need help with set up and clean up for the meeting.
 - c) Open Space/Natural Resource Agent Applications – Applications for this position will be accepted through October 20th.

5. New Business

- a) Milford Earth Day – The tentative date for Earth Day is Saturday, April 27, 2013. Claire said she would be willing to man the Milford Conservation Commission booth again this year and asked for any suggestions and assistance for this year. Earth Day is strictly educational with no vendors. Maureen suggested that the same challenge be made this year prior to Earth Day with a target of 50,000 pieces of litter to be picked up starting in January. Maureen will send out email updates. She thought that the litter pick up challenge would attract media attention if the challenge was presented to Mayor Blake. She suggested having volunteers meet on the steps of city hall with bags to the start the process and ask Mayor Blake to attend. She also suggested posting on Facebook areas in Milford that need trash pick up. The area behind Barnes and Noble near the Indian River is in need of trash pick up.
- b) CT Urban Forest Council & Forest Forum Conference – Milford Trees, Inc. received an award at this conference. Mayor Blake and Paul Piscitelli received the award which was presented by Bruce Lindsay. The Connecticut Urban Forest Council recognized the Homestead Elm Project in Milford as an outstanding example of collaboration and accomplishment in urban forestry in 2012.
- c) Brief Conference Highlights – State, utility and municipal funding for tree management and the disparity in funding for different towns was discussed.
- d) Milford's Grant Application – Milford's America the Beautiful grant application has been accepted by Connecticut's DEEP Urban Forestry in the amount of \$8,000 for the project "Urban Forestry Guided by Community Values and Engagement". This grant will help to fund a forest management plan which will focus on the Solomon Property and Eisenhower Park. The public will be surveyed to understand what values are most important to Milford's community on subjects such aesthetics, recreational trails, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat. The forest management plan will then be developed to support those goals and values. The city will have to provide an equivalent amount of in-kind matching using volunteer hours to the \$8,000 provided by the state. Steve said that Meredith Stowe from Yale will be helping with the survey.
- e) CACWIC – Maureen mentioned that the annual CACWIC meeting will be held on Saturday, November 17th at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Meriden.

The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berberich

Minutes not approved by the Commission