

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Conservation Commission – City of Milford
October 20, 2009**

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Bill Poutray, Keith Dunn, Oden Seaholm, Carol Dunn, Maureen Mauro, Dan Drago and Carolyn Greer. Guest Steven Miller, a journalism student at Southern Connecticut State University.
2. **Review Minutes** – The minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
3. **Public Comments** – No public comments.
4. **Open Space Walks Schedule** – Bill offered his thanks to Dan Drago for coordinating the open space walks. Dan said there were fewer people than they had hoped for at the walks, but this might also be due to the weather conditions on several of the weekends. There are a few walks left this year. Dan said when he starts to plan the walks for next year, there are two things he will do differently:
 - a. Start the walks earlier in the season
 - b. Once there is a clear schedule, post it in the newspaper and the City of Milford website. He said it would be important to check the city website as any last minute cancellations can be posted there.

Bill Pontin will lead the open space walk this weekend (weather permitting), 10/24, at Mondo Ponds at 10 a.m. which is scheduled to begin in the JFK school parking lot

Maureen Mauro will be leading the open space walk on Saturday, 10/31 at Eisenhower Park. The walk is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. by the bleachers. Bill asked Maureen to contact Mary Rose Palumbo from Inland Wetlands to get the information regarding the bridge project grant from the DEP for Eisenhower Park. Bill mentioned that Vincent Piselli has been in contact with Mary Rose regarding this project which includes whether the pond should be dredged or left alone, the dam and the breach in the river. If this overflows, it could change the course of the river. Maureen will bring her camera to take some pictures and post on the website.

5. **Mayoral Debate Regarding the Environment** – Bill attended this debate which allowed all the mayoral candidates to discuss their position on the environment. Danielle Bercury moderated. Bill said that Danielle did an excellent job.
6. **Request of Milford Conservation Commission** – A fifth grade teacher at Calf Pen Meadow school contacted the commission through the mayor's website. He was interested in having someone speak to his class about the environment. Oden Seahom spoke to him and told him he would bring this up at the next meeting. Bill suggested that the class take a field trip to the NOAA labs on Rogers Avenue where they work on the study of aquaculture. Maureen has a friend who attended the aquaculture school in Trumbull and went on to this study this in college. She said she could contact him to see if he might be interested in speaking to the class. Carol Dunn suggested a trip to the Coastal Center. She said she would be happy to speak to the class in the Spring at Gulf Pond when the osprey return. Oden will get back in touch with the teacher.
7. **Milford Conservation Award Recommendations** – Carolyn Greer handed out a two page document with several ideas. She asked everyone to look it over and discuss this at the next meeting.. The commission discussed their thoughts on where this award might be presented and having the public vote on nominees on the city website. Maureen and Bill will speak to the IT department to work on this idea.
8. **Sunday Meeting** – Ann Berman is hosting a meeting at her home this Sunday, 10/25 of environmental leaders in Milford. She is asking a representative from each group to spend five minutes detailing what their group does.
9. **Eisenhower Park Trails** – Bill has spoken to the mayor about the Conservation Commission creating a plan for trail maintenance on certain trails in the park. He would like to designate trails that need work, set up plans and request permits in advance. If there were pre-approved permits, then volunteers would be able to begin the work on these trails as needed. Bill feels it would be a good idea to form a joint committee with other commissions to help get this done. He said there would need to be a survey of which trails need the most work and possibly get help from the DEP.

10. **Monofilament Recycling Boxes** – Carol Dunn reported that on September 28th, the DEP installed two monofilament recycling boxes. One is on the beach side of Gulf Beach and the other is at the Audubon Society. She reported that funds from the Long Island Sound Fund paid for these boxes. Carol informed the mayor's office of this development. Bill suggested calling Jill Dion from the Milford newspaper to write an article on this. Carol has taken pictures at both sites.
11. **Phragmites** – Carol reported that a few women from the Garden Club pulled up phragmites on a small section of Gulf Beach and then carefully applied "Roundup" to the area. Concern was raised about "Roundup" as it is a non-selective herbicide. There was also a concern raised about the damage done by invasive phragmites, i.e., hurting nesting spots.
12. **CACIWC** – Carol handed out the brochures for the CACIWC annual meeting being held on Saturday, November 14th at Mountain Ridge in Wallingford.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room A.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berberich

Minutes not approved by the Commission