

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Conservation Commission
City of Milford
December 16, 2008

SPECIAL NOTE #1: THE JANUARY MEETING IS OFFICIALLY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 20TH. HOWEVER THAT IS INAUGURATION DAY, SO WE SHOULD DECIDE WHETHER IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO MOVE THE MEETING TO ANOTHER DAY. COMMENTS WELCOMED!

SPECIAL NOTE #2: HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

1. Roll Call/Review Minutes – Bill Poutray, Carol Dunn, Oden Seaholm, Maureen Mauro and Carolyn Greer. The minutes were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
2. Public Comments – No public comments.
3. Old Business
 - a) Yale Forestry School project – Vincent Piselli has been in touch with Shu Ming from the Yale Forestry school. Shu Ming, her sister and her professor from the Forestry school have agreed to do a walk-through of Eisenhower Park and possibly Beaver Brook. Vincent will follow up with Shu Ming and her professor and give the Conservation Commission additional details at the January meeting regarding this. Bill said he would like to see if the Barth Fund could be used in conjunction with this project as well as the SCA.
 - b) Furniture Row – Carol Dunn reported that the remediation process has begun at furniture row. Carol reports that a “brew” was put together in the lab and the process started six weeks ago to condition the contaminated water and soil. Carol met with representatives from the environmental company in charge of this process as well as a representative from the DEP and two women from the Milford Board of Health to observe this process. The DEP said there is an outflow of water that will drain into Gulf Pond and showed Carol what to look for while monitoring the outflow in the pond.
 - c) Conservation Commission Office – Mike will begin taking an inventory of the office and continue to work on organizing the office.

- d) Cornerstone Christian Church – Bill Poutray sent a letter to Planning and Zoning and the mayor with suggestions from the Conservation Commission regarding this property. He asked about the possibility of the city acquiring this property. It was reported that this property is privately owned and the owner is leasing the property to the church so it will remain on the tax rolls. The property is approximately eight acres. The church is within their requirements for open space and setbacks and the Tree Commission has no problems with this project.

4. New Business

- a) Holiday Inn proposed subdivision – The Conservation Commission reviewed plans for a Holiday Inn (Milford Place Corporate Center) off I-95 at exit 36 (Plains Road). The owners of this project have applied for a special permit to reduce the required setback from 6.63 acres to 6.1 acres. There was a question raised about the compensation on this open space change.

Bill is going to speak to David Sulkis from Planning and Zoning about the process in which the Conservation Commission receives new plans. There is a ten day window to respond to plans and the Conservation Commission is not receiving plans quick enough to make a response. Bill would like to find out about receiving the application in addition to the plans as well as any other information pertinent to plans. Carol said that files can be pulled from Planning and Zoning by giving them a particular address. P & Z will also make copies of the file at an additional cost. Maureen suggested getting together on a Saturday morning to go over plans if any plans are received the week prior. It was noted from the paperwork accompanying the plans that if the Conservation Commission responds, the letter should be sent to the applicant/agent with a copy to Planning and Zoning.

- b) Open Space Plan – Vincent Piselli gave Bill a copy of an Open Space Acquisition Priority Criteria Plan from a symposium he attended regarding the open space plan for Mansfield, Connecticut. Bill will make copies and distribute to members of the Conservation Commission.
- c) Bill gave Maureen a copy of the Zoning Regulations for the City of Milford. Maureen will give to Mike to put into the Conservation office.

- d) Bill is going over the Plan of Conservation and Development and will give to the other members once he has completely looked it over. He mentioned that there is not a complete natural resource inventory in this plan and he would like to convene a meeting with different environmental groups in Milford to address this issue. He would like to get a representative from UConn who specializes in natural resource inventories to attend this meeting and address the group regarding this process.
- e) Maureen Mauro said the cost for laminating the maps would be an additional \$25 to \$30 because the maps are two sided and wanted to make sure this was alright. Everyone agreed this was fine and she should go ahead.
- f) Maureen mentioned that there is a property for sale (approximately 4 to 5 acres) on West River Street which is next to Eisenhower Park and appears to have wetlands on it. She wanted to see if the Conservation Commission might have any interest into looking at this property. Maureen will check with the realtor on this property and get additional information.
- g) Carolyn Greer was informed at a meeting she attended that the Board of Alderman are planning to meet to discuss purchasing new “green” cars for the City of Milford. She said there has been some opposition to this and she will get further information.
- h) Carol Dunn had some information from Ruth Cutler of the Green Valley Institute which is part of the UConn Cooperative Extension Center. Ruth had looked over the Gulf Pond area and attended a Milford Garden Club meeting to make a presentation and recommendations for this area. Carol will hold onto this information until the Spring.
- i) Carol had a document from the DEP which the Conservation Commission was copied on regarding Caswell Cove. The document was a special terms and conditions permit from the DEP to Caswell Cove regarding in-water excavation, dredging, filling or removal of debris or other materials. The permit stated this was prohibited from April 1st through September 30th. It goes on to state that the specific closure dates are as follows – April 1st through June 30th in order to protect anadromous fish migration and June 1st through September 30th in order to protect spawning shellfish. The members also discussed the proposed gate being put in at Caswell Cove.
- j) A copy of the 2009 Conservation Commission meeting schedule was distributed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2009 in conference room "A".

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Berberich
Minutes not approved by the commission