

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Conservation Commission - City of Milford  
January 17, 2012**

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** - Bill Poutray, Dan Drago, Maureen Mauro, Keith Dunn, Bill Blotney and new members Claire Casey, Steve Johnson and Jerry Loiselle.
2. **Public Comments** - None
3. **Review Minutes** - The minutes were accepted unanimously.
4. **Welcome New Commissioners** - New commissioners Claire Casey, Steve Johnson and Jerry Loiselle were welcomed. The current commissioners introduced themselves.
5. **Unfinished Business**
  - a) **Plan of Conservation and Development** - Bill informed the commission that the plan is on the City of Milford website. He reiterated that the Conservation Commission's role is that of land management. By statute the Conservation Commission's role is to advise Planning & Zoning in the context of open space and sub-divisions. Bill feels this is a great opportunity to voice an opinion. Bill has made arrangements to have some of the people working on the Plan of Conservation and Development to attend the next meeting. Bill gave the new commissioners a copy of the letter he submitted to the city regarding the restoration of the Wepawaug River. Bill Blotney questioned if there were any updates on the dredging of the ponds. Bill Poutray would like to brainstorm with a sub-committee prior to the next meeting.
  - b) **Solomon Property** – Steve gave the new commissioners an overview of this property. He said that the police have installed some additional blocks to stop trucks from entering the property. However, there continues to be problems with ATV's and the police have been monitoring the property. Steve said the ATV's have caused a lot of damage to the property in addition to damage done by paintballing, teenage parties and a great deal of trash. Steve took out two truck loads of trash which Public Works picked up. He has made arrangements for a "clean-up party" for this Sunday afternoon. He said the Chief of Police is very supportive of the efforts to clean up the Solomon property. Jerry questioned if there was a way to let the teenagers still use the property, but ask them to be caretakers in keeping the area clean and safe. Steve said that there are 98 acres of the Solomon property; 2-1/2 acres are deeded open space and 96 acres are unrestricted. He feels it is important to protect, preserve and promote this property, and it is important that the neighbors to the Solomon property be involved. He said it is possible to contact the police on their website if neighbors notice anything of importance or concern with the property. Bill Blotney feels there needs to be more signage around the Solomon property stating that it is city property. It was brought up that the State of Connecticut can enforce a person or persons who destroy property to restore it. Bill Poutray suggested holding a public meeting to make people aware of the Solomon property situation. Steve said he is also working on the boundaries of the property.

b)Solomon Property (Cont'd)

Bill Poutray spoke about the deer stands in the trees he discovered when walking the property and the fact that a nearby homeowner claimed it was on his property, but the deer stand was clearly on the Solomon property according to the City Engineers office.

Steve has made arrangements to do a walk through of the property with Mary Rose Palumbo of Inlands and Wetlands so she can make recommendations. He feels it would be a great asset to have a Land Manager in Milford. The city paid four million dollars for this property and feels at present, it is a wasted resource. Bill feels the Conservation Commission needs to advocate for a Land Manager in the Plan of Conservation and Development. Maureen thought a volunteer network would be an important step, but Bill said that due to so many regulations, it would be much better to have a Land Manager who is familiar with all the regulations. Steve asked about any neighboring towns who might have a Land Manager and the possibility of getting their input. Maureen said she will call Mayor Zeoli from Orange about their land management. Jerry mentioned about speaking with the management of Aquarion Water Company in Bridgeport. Dan Drago agreed and felt this position would be justified as an investment to the city. He reiterated Jerry's comment about letting the teenagers use the property and also be caretakers.

**6. New Business**

- a) CACWIC Annual Meeting - Maureen Mauro and Carol Dunn attended this meeting. Maureen handed out a brochure she received on ATV laws in Connecticut. She said the key note speaker was the Commission of the DEP. He spoke about the lack of federal funding for the state and the effect of this; however, she said one of the DEP commission's goals is to have all electrical wires moved underground. She had an opportunity to speak with some of the Connecticut Environmental police officers who said they would be willing to speak at a future Conservation Commission meeting. She said there were many very informative workshops. She obtained information on the Emerald Ash Borers and the concern about them moving into Connecticut, the controlling of invasive plants, the Asian Long Horned Beetles, Farmland in Connecticut and the fact that bats are dying off of starvation in the state.
- b) Steve Johnson is currently taking a training course with The Connecticut Forest and Parks Association. He spoke briefly about the association based in Rock Falls. He said in June, the association sponsors National Trails Day that highlights 150 different hikes throughout Connecticut. He would like to see if the Solomon property could be added as a part of National Trails Day.
- c) Bill Blotney said he serves as the chairperson of the annual Trout Derby in Milford and thought it might be a good idea to have members of the Conservation Commission available to hand out information on the commission.

## **6.NewBusiness (Cont'd)**

- d) Maureen spoke to Kathy Alagno, President of the Milford Chamber of Commerce about the “green recognition” awards handed out this year. Kathy was unaware of the details of the impervious surface parking lot at Subway World Headquarters and said this definitely would have been considered for an award.
- e) Bill Poutray spoke to Letty Malone who attended a meeting at the Aquaculture Center on Rogers Avenue. She spoke about the poor condition of the river/harbor. Bill said a Sound protection plan should be built into the Plan of Conservation and Development.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berberich

Minutes not approved by the Commission