

Minutes of the Special Meeting
Conservation Commission – City of Milford
Tuesday, February 1, 2018 – 6 p.m.
Parsons Conference Room A, Parson’s Government Center

1. Call to Order/Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Members Present: Janet McAllister, Carolyn Alling, Claire Casey, Ryan Keeler, Howard Haberman, Diana Bytell, Keith Dunn, and Oden Seaholm

Absent: Gayle Hoffman due to prior commitment

Staff Liaison – Steve Johnson, Open Space & Natural Resource Agent

Director of Public Works – Chris Saley

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introduction of Commissioners and staff.

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair:

- a) Claire Casey nominated Janet McAllister as chair. Brief discussion. Howard Haberman seconded the motion. The motion passed 8:0.
- b) Claire Casey nominated Howard Haberman as Vice-chair. Brief discussion. Keith Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed 8:0.

5. Public Comments -none

6. Minutes – December 19, 2017 minutes were approved with Carolyn Alling motioning to accept minutes. No Discussion. Keith Dunn seconded the motion and the motion passed 8:0.

7. New Business

- a) **Roles and Responsibilities- Conservation Commission:** Janet provided a handout of the CT Statute, Chapter 97, Section 7-131a that outlines the responsibilities and roles of a municipal Conservation Commission for the commissioners to review. Janet discussed the supporting role of the CACIWC organization and will provide all with a PDF of their guide. Discussion of advocating for the advisory role of Conservation Commission with other City offices.
- b) **Land Use Records:** As one of the roles of the Conservation Commission is to advise and recommend land use to the City, Janet, Carolyn, and Ryan will work with Steve Johnson to document open space land use records on the Walnut Beach berm parcel. The findings will be shared at a future Conservation Commission meeting.
- c) **Sustainable CT Initiative:** Janet McAllister handed out a website page outlining the Sustainable CT Actions from www.sustainablect.org/actions-certifications/actions. Steve provided an overview of the program and the support of the program by Mayor Blake, and the Board of Alderman. Steve will forward additional materials to be shared. Steve is interested in learning of any interested people to become actively involved.

8. Unfinished Business Updates

- a) **Walnut Beach Paving project –** Janet provided a brief introduction and update of the project. Steve reviewed existing conditions, photos, proposed project plans for final grading and planting goals. Steve provided commissioners with an outline of proposed site features and development steps that the City plans to follow. Discussion with Chris Saley to address questions and concerns related to need for, location of, and materials for parking spaces; location of turnaround, construction timing and availability of funds for the project. Chris said that he has been working

with the Mayor to secure funding to continue with the project including re-vegetation as outlined, and that funds had been identified. Relocation of the small 27' W parking area on the graphic plan was discussed to reduce fragmentation of vegetated areas; relocating that space to the eastern section of 81' parking area was discussed. Next steps will require the soil being stockpiled from Eisenhower Park to thaw and be tested, then the raised berm grade to the proposed elevation and 2:1 slope.

Keith Dunn motioned to accept the conceptual plan as reviewed and discussed tonight with the following conditions:

1. Relocate the 27' parking area depicted on the graphic plan to the eastern 81' section making that 108' in width.
2. Recommend that all parking areas remain pervious gravel or grass.
3. Recommend that the additional 4' wide shoulder along the north side of the access road remain pervious material.
4. Recommend that a split-rail fencing with woody vegetation, and/ or boulders be included as structural barriers to prevent vehicles from accessing the vegetated berm.
5. Keep the Conservation Commission notified of any changes to the plans discussed tonight and of the construction schedules.

The motion was seconded by Howard Haberman. The motion passed 7:0 with one abstention.

b) Conservation outreach and Education:

1. Ryan Keeler will be attending the first annual Regional Convening for Sustainable Development (RCSA) at Grace Farms in New Cannon 2/7/18.
 2. Janet provided information about an education series the ECC is sponsoring at the Library. They will be hosting TED talks and are looking for speakers on these topics:
 1. Sunday, March 10, 2 pm – Trash, Recycling, Composting
 2. Sunday, April 14, 2 pm – Plastic waste
 3. Sunday, May 12, 2 pm – Ethics and Values of Open Space
 3. Steve updated on the Recycling Coalition Conference he attended and shared some upcoming recycling projects with the schools.
- 9. Liaison Reports** – Claire Casey shared the news that Superintendent Dr. Feser will be retiring as of July 1, 2018.
- 10. Motion to Adjourn** was made by Claire Casey and seconded by Howard Haberman at 7:55p.m. Motion passed 8:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Johnson
Open Space and Natural Resource Agent – Staff Liaison.

These minutes have not been accepted or approved.