

**Minutes of the  
Conservation Commission – City of Milford  
Tuesday, February 21, 2017 – 6 p.m.  
Parsons Conference Room A, Parson's Government Center**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Members Present:** Claire Casey, Dan Drago, Ryan Keeler, Keith Dunn, Janet McAllister, Carolyn Alling, and Oden Seaholm.  
**Absent:** Jerry Loiselle and Howard Haberman  
**Staff Liaison –** Steve Johnson, Open Space & Natural Resource Agent
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair –** Claire Casey motioned to elect Janet McAllister as Chair and Dan Drago as Vice-Chair. Keith Dunn seconded, the motion passed 7:0.
- 4. Public Comments –** Natalie Osborn was attending to learn more about the Conservation Commission and opportunities to be involved in Milford.
- 5. Minutes –** January 17, 2017, Keith Dunn motioned to accept as submitted, Claire Casey seconded the motion. The motion to amend the minutes passed 7:0.
- 6. New Business**
  - a) Ryan Keeler motioned to add three items for discussion. CT DEEP Blue Bird houses, New P& Z Application for 553 West Avenue, and Educational Outreach. Keith Dunn seconded the motion.
    1. CT DEEP Blue Bird Houses – CT DEEP is offering harvested wood from DEEP properties for construction of blue bird houses. General discussion included interest by the Milford Garden Club to be involved. Grassy / meadow locations were discussed such as Eisenhower Park, schools, 701 North Street. Installation will require upright poles, predator baffle, nuts and bolts. Oden Seaholm will research supply cost. Janet McAllister will explore some possible grants. Dan Drago also interested in helping.
    2. New P&Z Application – 553 West Avenue. This application will need to arrange a site visit by the Commission. A future date will be selected for a site visit depending on weather. Keith Dunn motioned to arrange a site visit. Discussion about the existing Conservation and Trail Easements for the protected 41 acre marsh area. Carolyn motioned to amend the motion to include receive information from the conservation and trail easement agreements. Claire Casey seconded. Amended motion approved 7:0.
    3. Educational Outreach & Public Outreach. The Commission is interested in sponsoring conservation education and outreach to engage the public for issues important locally. Public outreach can include developing social media and other outreach initiatives.

## **7. Unfinished Business Updates**

- a) 701 North Street - Reviewed the site visit by Janet McAllister, Carolyn Alling, Dan Drago, Howard Habberman, and Steve Johnson.
    - 1. There was a general discussion of this parcel including a vegetation survey completed by Janet McAllister.
      - 1. Many of the apple trees have been heavily impacted by invasive Oriental bittersweet vines and other vegetation. Majority of the estimated 270+ trees may already be dead or require too much time and care to save.
      - 2. There are sand estimated 60 Blueberry shrubs that can be saved with some invasive management to remove the Oriental bittersweet and other brambles.
      - 3. Other areas will benefit from a management plan to manage invasives and promote more native vegetation to benefit wildlife and the enjoyment by people.
      - 4. Recommendations will be developed by the Conservation Commission at a future meeting.
    - 2. Application and Open Space Monitoring Checklist –The draft checklist will continue to be refined by the sub-committee and presented at a future Conservation Commission meeting.
      - 1. A glossary addendum would be beneficial.
      - 2. Promoting Open Space Walks would be a valuable project with warmer spring weather.
  - b) Commissioner Liaisons Updates to Boards and Commissions: A brief updates from the Board of Education and Tree Commission was offered. Johnson will bring a liaison assignment for review to the next meeting.
- 8.** Motion to Adjourn was made by Dan Drago and seconded by Keith Dunn at 6:38 p.m. Motion passed 7:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Johnson

Open Space and Natural Resource Agent.

These minutes have not been accepted or approved.