

**Minutes of the  
The Conservation Commission – City of Milford  
Tuesday, March 15, 2016– 6:00 p.m.**

Chair Maureen Mauro DeSantie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Call to Order / Roll Call**

- a) Members Present: Carolyn Alling, Claire Casey, Dan Drago, Maureen Mauro DeSantie, Janet McAllister, Keith Dunn, Oden Seaholm, and Ryan Keeler.
- b) Absent: Jerry Loiselle
- c) Staff: Open Space and Natural Resource Agent, Steve Johnson

**3. Public Comments**

- a) None

**4. Review of Minutes**

- a) **Meeting 2/16/2016** – Dan Drago motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Keith Dunn seconded the motion. It was voted 8 in favor to approve.

**5. New Business**

- a) Conservation Commission 101 – Steve Johnson reviewed roles of the conservation commission for Open Space monitoring. Commissioners can get copies of any baseline parcel data that includes maps that Johnson has compiled on an estimated 642 parcels totaling 3,187 acres.
  - 1. Become familiar with the parcels. What are the natural resources, such as wetlands, streams, vernal pools, vegetation, wildlife, etc? What are the seasonal changes? What are the points of interest that help tell the story why this place is important? What are the threats such as possible encroachment by tree cutting, yards, sheds, dumping, invasive plants, wildlife, ATVs , Dirt bikes, trucks, graffiti, etc.
  - 2. Commissioners can share points of interest and concerns with the Johnson for follow-up. They should be observers and be helpful.
  - 3. Commissioner “Adopt an Open Space” for monitoring.

Commissioner	Conservation Area
Maureen Mauro Desantie	Eisenhower Park
Janet McAllister	Walnut Beach Dune and buffer
Dan Drago	Mondo Ponds, Solomon
Claire Casey	Wilcox Park
Keith Dunn	Burnt Plains MI-15

- b) Liaisons Reports:

- 1. OSAC - Mauro DeSantie, Alling, Johnson - None
- 2. MLCT – Johnson – Nancy’s Meadow Restoration Plans
- 3. P&Z - Mauro DeSantie – Grillo Denial by P&Z
- 4. IWA – McAllister – Tanglewood Application
- 5. Flood Control & Erosion Board, DPW – Alling, Johnson shared the Field Court drainage plans underway.

6. Tree Commission –Dunn – last meeting reviewed minutes
  7. Harbor Management – Johnson - none
  8. Park, Beach & Recreation – McAllister, Drago – Orange Ave. Land Swap for Orange Ave Fields. Johnson reviewed the background.
  9. Board of Education – Casey – last evening’s BoE meeting did discuss recent medical marijuana dispensary concerns expressed by some residents.
  10. Economic and Community Development – Ryan Keeler will act as the liaison following sustainability projects.
- c) Projects / Sub-Committee: Dan Drago reviewed project list to identify projects that can be supported with defined project task, execution, and completion promoting conservation values.
1. Promoting Open Space walks, natural resource inventory & monitoring to “tell the story” led the list with seven votes.  
McAllister suggested creating an Open Space “tool” sheet that can help identify and share what are the important points of interest in our conservation areas. This tool could be adapted and refined over time.
  2. Native Landscaping - McAllister offered to develop a reference list of various resources including books, websites, experts at UConn, etc. Alling suggested that the very broad lists of native alternatives can be selected for Milford and our typical planting conditions. This list can be share with various departments and volunteer groups. McAllister has a several options of CT nurseries that have natives. Mauro DeSantie also suggested Ganim’s Garden Center’s Conservation Plantings selection of natives. Johnson will share his resources with McAllister who will coordinate.
  3. Earth Day – Johnson updated a number of related Earth Day projects that are being developed. He encourages Commissioners to help with one or several events.
    1. Traditional Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – celebrate with family and friends promoting conservation.
    2. Possible Pumpkin Elementary School memorial garden project, date TBD.
    3. MacKenzie’s May 7th Walnut Beach cleanup
    4. Academy High School, Shipyard Lane to finish plantings from 2015 and adding native understory trees and shrubs at the invasive restoration site along the path leading to the observation deck.
    5. Milford National Lou Gehrig Little League is interested in providing an electronics recycling and litter clean-up down at Fowler Field.
    6. Water Quality – Dan Drago is interested in exploring water quality projects.
    7. Project Green Space & Purple Coneflower projects. Both of these have been postponed for this year.

## **6. Unfinished Business Updates**

- a) Proposed Development Plan site review checklist – this is dependent on the application and location to open space or other natural resources. Johnson is working to provide this review list.

## **7. Education & Workshops**

- a) **CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC) – 3/19/16**, Mauro DeSantie, Casey and Johnson are attending. Four members of the Milford Land Conservation Trust will be attending as well.
- b) **CT Invasive Plant Conference (CIPWG) October 11, 2016**

**Motion:** By Mr. Drago to adjourn.

**Second:** By Mr. Dunn

**Vote:** Voted 8:0, All in favor of adjournment at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Johnson  
Open Space and Natural Resource Agent  
These minutes have not been accepted or approved.