

**Minutes of the
Conservation Commission – City of Milford
Tuesday, April 17, 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 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Janet McAllister, Howard Haberman, Oden Seaholm, Carolyn Alling, Claire Casey, Ryan Keeler, Gayle Hoffman, and Diana Bytell.

Absent: Keith Dunn

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments – None

4. Minutes – February 1, 2018 Special Meeting minutes were approved with Claire Casey motioning to accept minutes. No Discussion. Howard Haberman seconded the motion and the motion passed 8:0.

5. New Business

- a) **Cleanup and beach grass plantings at Walnut Beach** – Johnson said we had 20+ volunteers on Saturday, March 24, 2018 planting 5,200 bare root beach grass culms in the mid-dune towards the boardwalk in approximately 2.5 hours. Leaf litter and other debris were removed from the dune to facilitate the planting effort. We owe a big thanks to all the volunteers who made this planting a success. All-Habitat has two scheduled treatments of the invasive plants later this spring and summer to complete their planned treatments. Planting of additional shrubs and perennials is planned for this spring as well. Other grant deliverables will involve vegetation density calculations, signage, and a public outreach talk.
- b) **Alice Garlock Clean-ups** – Janet McAllister introduced Alice's Litter Clean-up project efforts to the agenda. The motion to include was made by Ryan Keeler and seconded by Carolyn Alling. Janet suggested the Conservation Commission support Alice for her volunteer clean-up projects. Support may include volunteering when available and spreading the word about her clean-up days, which are posted on her Facebook page. MEPI may also be interested in helping to support these volunteer efforts. Passed 8:0. Further discussion included that we should also organize a clean-up of the Mondo Ponds and Solomon Trails before the CT Trail Day hikes on Saturday, June 2nd. A-up walk was scheduled at Solomon on Sunday, April 29th at 9:30 a.m. to review the trail conditions and check for any maintenance required. Commissioners and all public are invited.
- c) **Plastic Bag ban** -New agenda item. Motion by Gayle Hoffman to recommend having Conservation Commission provide letter of support and research information from other communities that have successfully passed a bag ban. Claire Casey seconded. Discussion about why this is important and to learn from resources available how to proceed. Passed 8:0.
- d) **Eversource Vegetation Management** – Johnson provided brief update about upcoming vegetation management within the power transmission line right-of-ways.

- e) **UI Lighting Conversion** – street lights. Johnson updated that UI is beginning the conversion to the LED fixtures. About 88% of the lighting will be the 3000 Kelvin Color Temperature and remaining LED at the 4,000 Kelvin Color Temperature.

6. Unfinished Business Updates

- a) **Walnut Beach Construction / Parking Area Earth Berm.** Johnson worked with Tom Morris from UConn to gather random soil samples across the soil piles deposited from Eisenhower Park. The pH, which ranged from 4.5 to 5.4 with a mean of 4.78, is too acidic for most vegetation and should be raised with lime or with a covering of higher pH topsoil.
- b) **Walnut Beach Land Use records.** The subcommittee that researched the records found 1992-1993 press articles and Conservation Commission documents about a request for zone change to open space, and the P&Z public hearing record and meeting minutes recording the vote for the zone change from R18 to Open Space. The impetus for this zone change was a city proposal to build a new picnic area in the berm and the public's desire to keep the land as naturalized open space. The P&Z documents contained no language about deed restrictions. There is a deed restriction on file 12/1/1998 – Vol. 2317 / 674 (CT DEEP when the fishing pier was built) keeping the parcel open for recreation and conservation purposes - for Public Recreation, Municipal Open Space and Conservation or preservation of cultural or natural resources, agriculture, and/or natural resource education. In sum, the subcommittee found a long history of conservation intent for the Berm that includes the 1998 deed restriction governing use of the land.
- c) **Roles and Responsibilities of the Conservation Commission.** Howard Haberman motioned that the Commission draft a letter to request a meeting with Mayor Blake to discuss how the Conservation Commission can be more pro-actively involved in open space and conservation recommendations outside of the P&Z process. Diana Bytell seconded the motion. Discussion followed about the contents of the letter and who is interested in attending the meeting. Janet McAllister agreed to draft the letter per commission discussions and Ryan Keeler, Claire Casey, Janet McAllister and Howard Haberman are interested in attending if their schedule allows. Motion passed 8:0.
- d) **Sustainable CT** – Johnson will send Sustainable CT Action Items brochure and detailed excel spreadsheet to the commissioners. Ryan Keeler is interested in helping this initiative and sees the benefits for having a standard for actions that support sustainable efforts across the City. Sustainable CT can also be a framework for the commission to conduct outreach and education about environmental protection topics.

7. Liaison Reports – None

- 8. Motion to Adjourn** was made by Claire Casey, seconded by Howard Haberman o at 7:30p.m. Motion passed 8:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Johnson
Open Space and Natural Resource Agent.

These minutes have not been accepted or approved.