

**Minutes of the
The Conservation Commission – City of Milford
Tuesday, May 17, 2016 – 6 p.m.
Site Visit – 553 West Avenue Boardwalk & Trail project
Park at Stran Road, Meet at Parking Lot**

Chair Maureen Mauro DeSantie called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

- a) Members Present: Carolyn Alling, Dan Drago, Maureen Mauro DeSantie, Janet McAllister, Oden Seaholm, and Ryan Keeler.

2. Absent: Jerry Loiselle, Keith Dunn, Claire Casey

3. Staff: Steve Johnson, Open Space and Natural Resource Agent

4. Public Comments

- a) None

5. Agenda item 4 Minutes Carolyn Alling motioned to re-order the agenda to vote on the Minutes from April 19, 2016. Dan Drago seconded. No discussion, voted 6 in favor. Janet McAllister motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Dan Drago seconded. No discussion, motion passed 6 to 0.

6. Site Walk – 553 West Avenue Boardwalk & Trail project area and review of engineering plans prepared by Milone and MacBroom for Milford's Inland Wetland Agency.

- a) Reviewed plans being submitted to the IWA agency 5/18/2016.
- b) Site walk from parking lot area, trail head to start of the proposed boardwalk area.
- c) Recommendations for consideration:
 - 1. Rain Garden at Parking lot – specify a percolation rate to be sure that stormwater drains to prevent standing water. If compacted sub-soils are present, it should be identified and appropriate measures taken to ensure rain garden success. (Janet McAllister)
 - 2. Invasive management at the parking lot, trail and immediate boardwalk within the City's ROW should include guidelines for management of the native plants. This should also include post management Landscape Maintenance plan of invasive plant re-growth and be part of the City's plan for ongoing maintenance to ensure success of the vegetation plan. (Janet McAllister & Carolyn Alling)
 - 3. Identified trees that will be cut and the list of proposed replanted native trees are ok.(Dan Drago)
 - 4. Extending the boardwalk to the drainage swale area makes sense to provide ADA access at this point of the trail.
 - 5. Phragmites Management is a critical part of this project. This is outside the scope of the City's easement maintenance obligations but the City should negotiate this with the Kingdom Life Christian Church. The Phragmites control should include initial 4 year plan as proposed by CT DEEP Paul Capotasto as well as on-going maintenance to prevent re-establishment of the common reeds.
 - 6. Other invasive management and native plant restoration efforts around the parking lot area should be confirmed that they are

within the scope of the City's obligation and future maintenance under the easements.

7. Marsh water levels can vary seasonally. The management of the Beaver Brook Canal outflow should be managed by the property owner to prevent debris blockages that flood the canal and the marsh. This can overtop trails making them unusable.
8. Wildlife observed in the area:
 1. Coyote at Stran Road
 2. Red Fox
 3. New England Cottontail Rabbit
 4. Variety of birds
9. Invasive Vegetation observed:

List of Invasive Plants observed along trail segment

Below is a list of the non-native invasive vegetation occurring along the parking lot and trail leading to the Boardwalk. The Common Names below have hyperlinks to fact sheets at http://cipwg.uconn.edu/invasive_plant_list/

Common Name	Latin Name
Norway maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Tree of heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
Garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>
Japanese Barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>
Oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>
Autumn olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>
Winged euonymus or Burning bush	<i>Euonymus alatus</i>
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Japanese stilt grass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>

Wineberry	<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i>
Bittersweet nightshade	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>
Japanese Angelica Tree – This is not currently listed as a CT Invasive and is an invasive elsewhere. It is a big concern along one trail section where this is growing densely. This summer, during July blooming season, it can confirm that this is the <i>Aralia elata</i> and not the <i>Aralia spinosa</i> (Devil’s Walking Stick) that is native to the US. Leaf vein morphology will also be an indicator.	<i>Aralia elata</i> (suspected)

1.

- d) **Dan Drago motioned** to recommend the support for this project, Oden Seaholm seconded. There was no discussion. Voted 6 in favor to accept the plans as submitted.

7. 701 North Street – Commissioners would like to schedule a future site visit after the City has closed on the property this summer.

8. Old Business

- a) **Open Space monitoring – no updates.**
b) **No Liaison reports.**

Motion: By Dan Drago to adjourn.

Second: By Oden Seaholm

Vote: Voted 6:0, All in favor of adjournment at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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