

**Minutes of the Conservation Commission – City of Milford**  
**Tuesday, January 21, 2020– 6 p.m.**  
**Parsons Conference Room C, Parson’s Government Center**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Janet McAllister, Gayle Hoffman, Carolyn Alling, Howard Haberman, Ryan Keeler, Gregg Hammond, Diana Bytell

**Absent:** Gregg Hammond, Rebecca Smith, Gregory Tweedie

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

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Introductions and Welcome to New Commissioners** – Commissioners welcomed each other to the new year.

**4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair** – Gayle Hoffman motioned to nominate Ryan Keeler as Chair and Howard Haberman as Vice Chair; Janet McAllister seconded. Motion passed all in favor.

**5. Public Comments** – None

**6. Minutes** – December 17, 2019 – Approval minutes on hold till next meeting.

**7. New Business**

- a) **Report on January meeting with Mayor Blake and several Commissioners** – Janet McAllister, Howard Haberman, Carolyn Alling Gregg Hammond and Gayle Hoffman met with the Mayor at City Hall on January 9. The meeting was cordial. There was no change in the Mayor’s decision to not allow the resolution to be brought before the BOA. In response to Commissioners’ questions about open space funds not being available for their intended uses, e.g. for maintenance and acquisition of open space, because of the city spending them to buy 701 North St, the Mayor said that there are ample rainy day funds to enable the city to act on a purchase opportunity and that the city will continue to do whatever it can to replenish funds. There have been deposits of \$275,000 from sale of foreclosed properties. The group discussed the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day and the Commission’s interest to get involved. The Mayor indicated willingness to give a proclamation there regarding protection of open space, which the

Conservation Commission could help draft. Commissioners requested a copy of the city's capital list to review for ideas about future, long-term development desires. The Mayor said he would welcome the Commission's ideas or proposals about open space properties at any time. He also said that plans for 701 North St. are not finalized and that changes in the parking configuration are still possible. When asked who Commissioners should talk to for more information about possible changes and opportunities for natural area improvement, he said Steve Johnson and Pat Devine are the ones most involved.

- b) **Earth Day 2020 – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee and plans** – The ECC has formed a committee to plan a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, with Joe DeSisto Alling and Alessandra Alling as co-chairs. Howard Haberman, Ryan Keeler, Carolyn Alling and Janet McAllister have all attended planning meetings and offered theirs and the Commission's support. Commissioners expressed interest in having an exhibit at the event and will discuss content for that at the next meeting.
- c) **CT Trails Day, June 6, 2020** – This is an annual statewide event sponsored by CT Forest and Parks Association. Steve Johnson leads hikes, typically at Mondo Ponds and the Solomon Property. The Commission discussed featuring a walk at the newly renovated Beaver Brook Boardwalk this year.

## **8. Unfinished Business Updates**

- a) **Recycling Task Force/Anti-littering campaign** – Ryan Keeler (?) spoke to Karen Fortunati and she is supportive of the Conservation Commission taking the lead in continuing the Task Force. He will talk to Jeremy Grant about possible next steps.
- b) **701 North Street and Resolution** – Referring back to the meeting with the Mayor, Commissioners asked Steve Johnson about possible changes to the site plan at 701 North St. Steve was unaware that there were changes being considered. He will follow up with the Mayor and report back to the Commission.
- c) **Liaisons to Boards and Commissions** – No reports. Commissioners requested to review list of boards and commissions and choose one or more to volunteer to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Johnson (**someone else?**)  
Open Space and Natural Resource Agent

These minutes have not been accepted or approved.