

**Minutes of the
Conservation Commission – City of Milford
Tuesday, October 18, 2016 – 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: Carolyn Alling, Claire Casey, Dan Drago, Maureen Mauro DeSantie, and Janet McAllister.
Absent: Oden Seaholm, Ryan Keeler, Keith Dunn, Jerry Loiselle
Staff Liaison – Steve Johnson, Open Space & Natural Resource Agent
2. **Public Comments –** Troop 12 Boy Scouts were in attendance as part of their Citizen and the Community Merit Badge

3. **Minutes –** September 20, 2016, Janet McAllister motioned to accept. Clair Casey seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5:0.

4. New Business

- a) Update from CT Invasive Plant Symposium held 10/11/2016 – Johnson attended and gave an overview of the conference. Invasive Species are recognized as a significant threat to our ecosystems yet funding and management of those species lacks a compelling argument. Karl Wagener from The Council of Environmental Quality, CEQ presented on a number of environmental indicator trends.

5. Unfinished Business Updates

- a) 701 North Street
 1. Bamboo control is being monitored by Dr. Jeff Ward of the CT Ag. Experiment Station.
 2. Orchard recommendations – Dr. Ward agreed that with some management of the 3 acre orchard it could be restored as a grassland and wildflower meadow. Retaining select apple trees, the blueberry shrubs, and blackberries would be a beneficial use. Managing the invasive vegetation will be key to any restoration plan. Dr. Ward suggested volunteers to help cut the Oriental Bittersweet and MultiFlora Rose etc. assisting the City with any plans.
 3. Johnson encouraged Conservation Commissioners and interested citizens to walk the site.
- b) Community Conservation Award nominees
 1. Four award nominees were discussed. These projects were all positive examples that deserve recognition and can help spark others to encourage conservation in our community. It can help to promote education and appreciation.
 1. Daisy Troop 30347(Waterfowl Project),
 2. Girl Scout Troop 38305 Multiple sustained Invasive Plant and Native Plant Pollinator restoration projects at Milford Earth Day, Milford Historical Society, and CT Audubon Society.
 3. Milford Garden Club's Community Garden's stewardship, Milford Earth Day, Milford Library, and assistance with the Parson's Rain Garden.

4. Subway Corporation for their support of the Mondo Ponds trail restoration.
2. Claire Casey motioned to recognize these nominees. Dan Drago Seconded. Dan said the key benefit to each of these projects is the follow-up that demonstrate project sustainability. Maureen offered background on the past 2010 Conservation Awards.
 1. Janet McAllister amended the motion to include a subcommittee to discuss the nominees and the selection criteria being Maureen Mauro DeSantie, Janet McAllister, and Claire Casey. Claire Casey seconded the motion. No further discussion, the motion passed 5:0.
- c) Open Space Monitoring Checklist
 1. Maureen Mauro DeSantie brought samples of past Open Space checklist monitoring plans.
 2. Dan motioned to create a sub-committee to meet and discuss the creation of an open space monitoring checklist and a checklist for reviewing applications. Janet McAllister, Carolyn Alling and Dan Drago volunteered. Janet McAllister seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.
- d) Application Review Checklist (discussed in agenda item 5C above.)
- e) Commissioner Liaisons Updates to Boards and Commissions
 1. Janet McAllister updated the commission that Inland Wetlands Agency had approved the Grillo Application for their proposed 8-30g residential development.
 2. Four commissioners are planning to attend the CACIWC Conference on Saturday, Nov. 15th. (Claire Casey, Dan Drago, Carolyn Alling and Janet McAllister.)

Dan Drago motioned to adjourn at 6:57 p.m., Carolyn Alling seconded. The motion passed 5:0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Johnson
Open Space and Natural Resource Agent.

These minutes have not been accepted or approved.