

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
The Conservation Commission – City of Milford
November 17, 2009**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call** – Bill Poutray, Maureen Mauro, Keith Dunn, Dan Drago, Danielle Bercury, Carol Dunn and Carolyn Greer.
Guests: Mike DeGrego and Bill Pontin.
- 2. Review Minutes** – The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
- 3. CACIWC Annual Meeting** – Maureen Mauro, Carol Dunn and Mike DeGrego attended the CACIWC annual meeting held on Saturday, November 14th at Mountain Ridge in Wallingford. Maureen passed around literature from various groups that were represented at the meeting. They mentioned three workshops of interest. They were:

Advancing Land Conservation through Collaboration
Deer Ecology and CT's Growing Populations
Connecticut Beaver Ecology: Impact on Wetlands
And Watercourses

Maureen, Carol and Mike had concerns regarding the deer ecology workshop and that it was geared toward being “pro-hunting”. Carol mentioned that there are darts used to sterilize deer for periods of one year. Mike spoke to Andrew LaBonte, wildlife biologist from the CT DEP wildlife division who told him about a device that has been developed. It has a corn feeder which attracts the deer. When the deer puts its head down to feed, their head will go into a holder that produces medication that kill deer ticks. Each set up costs \$495.00.

Bill said he would be interested in contacting Mr. LaBonte and see if he would be willing to speak at an upcoming Conservation Commission meeting.

4. **Public Comments** – Bill Pontin spoke about his concerns with the remote controlled boats that are being used on Mondo Ponds by the public. He wanted to ask the Commission what they thought his recourse was on this matter. Bill suggested that calling the police was the best thing to do. Maureen suggested going to a Board of Alderman meeting and speaking about this. A suggestion was also made that recruiting more people so this is presented as a group at a Board of Alderman meeting would help. Carol also suggested taking pictures or video taping the boats. Danielle made a suggestion that the Conservation Commission put together a “commission report” on a monthly basis and have the members on a rotating basis present this report at the Board of Alderman meetings.

5. Unfinished Business

- a) **Open Space Walks** – Dan Drago reported that the open space walks have wrapped up for the year. The last walk was at Great River public access. The groups did a walk through and clean up. They took a group picture with everyone who attended and all the garbage they picked up. Carolyn Greer suggested putting the picture in the newspaper. Maureen Mauro lead the walk at Eisenhower Park. She reported that four people attended and the weather was not great. They also did a clean up while they walked the area. Mike DeGrego also has done a lot of clean up near the Eco Lodge in the park. Maureen suggested possibly having a winter walk at Eisenhower Park.

Bill asked everyone for suggestions on how to improve the walks for next year. He said there is work underway for a conservation page on the City of Milford website. Once the schedule is set for 2010, the walks can be announced ahead of time on the conservation website, through email distribution and in the newspaper. A suggestion was made to also include in the email distribution local science teachers, boy and girl scout leaders and local ecology clubs at Milford high schools. Bill mentioned a teacher at the Academy (Alternative Education) who organized a group to work on Walker Pond.

- a) Open Space Walks (Cont'd) – Bill suggested that the walks should be held on Sunday afternoons with no rain dates. Dan thought it might be a good idea to send out an email asking for input on which day would be better for everyone and any other suggestions for improvements. Bill also mentioned that there is a list of “Milford’s Favorite Walks” with descriptions on Ann Berman’s website.
- b) Conservation Awards Program – Carolyn is going to continue to do more research on this program. Everyone agreed having the awards tied into Earth Day with different categories of awards would be a good idea. There was a suggestion made that combining the award ceremony with fundraising might be a good idea, i.e., putting together a booklet with ads from different companies in Milford. The money raised could go toward the Conservation Commission with a specific thought of reducing the deer tick population as discussed previously.

6. New Business

- a) Subway Grant – Bill reported that Vincent Piselli has put together parts of a grant application specific to Mondo Ponds. The DeLuca Foundation would be co-sponsor of the grant. Mr. DeLuca is the founder of Subway. The grant would be supervised by Annalise Spaziato, a science teacher at the Academy in Milford. Graduates of her program would do the work and the grant would pay for the work. It would be called “Operation Habitat” and would work on restoring the trail system in Mondo Ponds and eliminating the invasive vines on trees as well. A non-profit would have to be the recipient of the grant, so the United Way has agreed to serve as the non-profit. Bill will email the grant application to the commission members and said he will wait to hear the outcome.

- b) Open Space Survey – Bill reported that the Mayor’s Open Space Advisory Committee is sending out 250 surveys regarding open space to Milford citizens who have been randomly selected from the voter rolls. The survey is a four page document with a letter from the mayor which also includes a self-mailer to return. The survey will be coded to each individual. Copies will also be available at the library and city hall.

7. Old Business

- a) Monofilament Boxes – Carol reported she had just emptied the monofilament box at Gulf Beach and there was quite a bit of monofilament in there. Bill suggested drilling a hole in the bottom of the boxes in order to let any rain water drain out.
- b) Furniture Row – Carol reported that the first formal report has been released. She said it stated that the “brew” formulated is working and progressing at a faster rate than they had anticipated.
- c) Sunday Meeting – Bill reported on the environmental leader meeting at Ann Berman’s home. He said representatives from Milford Trees, Parks Department, Milford Conservation Commission, ECC, Garden Club and four or five other groups each spent a few minutes explaining what their group did. This group will try to meet quarterly and organize some ventures together.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15th at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room “A”

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berberich

Minutes not approved by the Commission

