

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES OF CONSERVATION MEETING
February 18, 2010**

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on February 18, 2010, at the Osborn Hill Elementary School, 760 Stillson Road, Fairfield, CT.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stanton Lesser, Chairman; Milan Bull, Vice Chairman; Frank Rice, Secretary; Landon Storrs; J. Paul DeMarrais and Kathleen Maxham. **ALTERNATES:** Elizabeth Jones. **ABSENT:** Joan Neiley; Philip DiGennaro, Jr., and Douglas Jones. Also Present: Thomas Steinke, Conservation Director; Edward Jones, Open Space Manager; Annette Jacobson, Conservation Administrator, and members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30p.m. by Chairman Lesser.

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES: Elizabeth Jones was appointed to sit as a full member.

I. CONSERVATION

A. Bills and Communications:

1. Approval of Minutes of the Conservation Commission Meeting of January 21, 2010: Milan Bull *moved* and Kathleen Maxham *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes of January 21, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*
2. Approval of Secretary's Bill for of January 21, 2010: Milan Bull *moved* and Kathleen Maxham *seconded* to approve the Secretary's Bill of January 21, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*
3. Approval of Minutes of the Conservation Commission Special Meeting of February 4, 2010: Milan Bull *moved* and Kathleen Maxham *seconded* to approve the Special Meeting minutes of February 4, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*
4. Approval of Secretary's Bill for February 4, 2010: Milan Bull *moved* and Kathleen Maxham *seconded* to approve the Secretary's Bill of February 4, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. H. Smith Richardson Conservation Fund Trust: Peter Roberge of Bank of New York-Mellon (New Co-Trusteeship): Thomas Steinke reported that Mr. Roberge was unable to attend the meeting this evening; he anticipates attending the March Conservation Commission meeting.

**DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO REVIEW, CORRECTION AND APPROVAL BY
THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD**

- B. 2010-2011 Budget: Thomas Steinke reported that the Board of Finance will be reviewing and voting on the budget.
- C. Conservation Easement Marking Policy: Milan Bull *moved* and Kathleen Maxham *seconded* to table this matter to the March Conservation Commission meeting. *Motion passed unanimously.*
- D. Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection – Proposed Stream Flow Standards and Regulations – The Commission acknowledged that its comments were forwarded to the Connecticut DEP by Staff, as voted upon at the previous meeting. Kathleen Maxham noted that consideration should be given when the Commission must review lengthy documents prior to deliberating on matters which have time restrictions. Mr. Steinke advised the Commission that Staff makes its best effort to provide the Commission as much time as possible.
- E. CT-DEP Inland Wetlands and Watercourses, Tentative Determination to Issue a Permit #IW200900130 (DOT Project #45-88) for the Renovation of the State Route 59 Bridge over the Mill River: J. Paul Demmarais *moved* and Milan Bull *seconded* to recommend approval of application, with conditions, as set forth in Staff's memo of February 11, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.* Staff will forward the comments included in the February 11, 2010 memo.
- F. CT DEP-OLISP Application by John Hilts for T. George Vatis at 353 Old Dam Road to Remove An Existing Pier, Ramp, and Float and Install a Pier, Ramp, and Float on Pine Creek: Thomas Steinke provided the Commission with a description of the project, noting that Staff was recommending approval, with conditions, which included a relocation of the structure to provide for a 50' wide unencumbered fairway in the Pine Creek channel. Following discussion, Frank Rice *moved* and Landon Storrs *seconded* to accept the recommendation of Thomas Steinke, as set forth in a memo of February 12, 2010, and have Staff forward the comments to DEP-OLISP. *Motion passed unanimously.*

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fairfield Parks and Recreation Department Approval of the Third Annual Duckie Derby on the Mill River along Brookside Drive Park: Kathleen Maxham *moved* and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* to approve the Duckie Derby event on the Mill River along Brookside Drive Park, in accordance with the conditions imposed by the Department of Recreation. *Motion passed unanimously.*
- B. Fairfield Bike/Walk Coalition: Thomas Steinke advised the Commission that it may wish to consider establishing a committee to review this, as this proposal involves connecting areas of the open space, private, and town owned property. Chairman Lesser directed any Commissioner interested in serving on a Committee to represent the Commission in this matter to contact him.

- C. Donation/Acquisition of the “Top Hat” Blanco Property at 2045 Hillside Road and Congress Street: Thomas Steinke advised the Commission that this parcel has been offered to the Town as a donation by the owner, and that the Town is requiring that the owner bring the property taxes current. Mr. Steinke also indicated that the Board of Selectman has referred the donation to the Town Planning and Zoning Department for its comments, and that the RTM must vote as to whether or not it will approve the acquisition. Following discussion, Milan Bull *moved* and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* to recommend endorsement of the Town’s acquisition of this property. *Motion passed unanimously.*
- D. Town of Fairfield Organic Teaching Farm Proposal/Request for Lease of Town Owned Land: Thomas Steinke recommended that the Chairman consider establishing a sub-committee to review this matter. Mr. Steinke further noted that although an area had not yet been selected, the Commission would need to review the specific needs of this organization, and possibly making a recommendation as to which open space area is best suited for this purpose. Pamela Jones and Jody Eisenmann were present this evening in support of this project and provided the Commission with some material on this subject, including information with regard to a farm it is currently operating in Wilton, CT. Mr. Steinke advised the Commission that Conservation Staff will be meeting with this group to review the proposal.

IV. OTHER

- A. Conservation Department Web Site Statistics: Informational.
- B. Earth Day Celebration Committee Announces Earth Day Celebration May 8, 2010: Informational.
- C. Chairman Lesser indicated that he received correspondence from Mary von Conta, Chairman of the Fairfield Harbor Management Commission inviting him to a meeting she is conducting with the DEP to discuss the accretion of sand in Southport Harbor. Mr. Lesser inquired whether any members were interested in attending the meeting on behalf of the Commission. Milan Bull indicated that he would like to attend. Thomas Steinke noted that in response to a request by the Chairman of the Shellfish Commission, he will be attending the meeting on its behalf.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Landon Storrs *moved* and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Gabriel