

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES OF CONSERVATION MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2010**

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on December 16, 2010, in Meeting Room II of the Honorable John J. Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT.

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES: Elizabeth Jones and Philip DiGennaro, Jr. were appointed to sit as full members.

I. CONSERVATION

A. Bills and Communications:

1. Approval of Minutes of the Conservation Commission November 18, 2010: Kathleen Maxham *moved* and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes of November 18, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*
2. Approval of Secretary's Bill for November 18, 2010: Kathleen Maxham *moved* and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* to approve the Secretary's Bill for November 18, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Fairfield Organic Teaching Farm: Thomas Steinke advised the Commission that the mowing, plowing and harrowing has been completed and the area has been seeded as planned. Edward Jones indicated that the Golf Commission is seeking to dredge the ponds at the H. Smith Richardson Golf Course and that the material proposed to be dredged has been tested and it is mostly organic. It may be beneficial to have the dredged material placed at Hoyden's Hill Open Space for use by the Organic Teaching Farm or by other conservation related projects. Edward Jones also noted that he is discussing with Recreation Director Gerald Lombardo the possibility of having boy scouts volunteer their efforts at Hoyden's Hill Open Space for golf ball retrieval. Mr. Jones will continue to keep the Conservation Commission informed concerning these proposed projects.

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

B. Fairfield Trails Guide – Second Printing – Estimates: The Commission reviewed the cost estimates provided by Geoffrey Steadman for the printing of 200 copies of the Open Space Trails Guide, without any modifications. Frank Rice acknowledged Geoffrey Steadman’s significant efforts in the initial printing of the guide, noting that Mr. Steadman had authored the various Town of Fairfield open space management plans, which was where Mr. Rice obtained most of the information he had included in the trail guide. Frank Rice further indicated that although he had included Geoffrey Steadman’s in the document crediting him for his efforts, Mr. Steadman had removed his name from the guide prior to printing, and that he should be properly acknowledged in the trail guide. Following discussion, Joan Neiley *moved* and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* to approve the re-printing of 250 copies the trail guide, as currently printed. *Motion passed unanimously* The Commission discussed revisions that may be included for future printing, such as the trails at the former diocesan property and Bilberry trail. The Aspetuck Land Trust trails may also be included in future printing.

C. H. Smith Richardson Conservation Fund Trust Agreement: Thomas Steinke noted that this matter is on the upcoming RTM agenda for approval.

D. Proposed 2011-2012 Budget (Vote): Thomas Steinke indicated that the figures included in the proposed budget include the personnel requested to replace those not funded in the previous budget, such as the full-time wetlands compliance officer, a second full-time “assistant” wetlands compliance officer, a full-time laborer, and restoration of the part-time secretary to a full-time position. Mr. Steinke also advised the Commission that it has met, and has often exceeded, its target for recovery of the cost to run the inland wetlands program, as allowed by Connecticut State Statutes. Thomas Steinke clarified that pursuant to the fee schedule and review period adopted by the Agency, the recovery rates are based upon a two-year average. Kathleen Maxham noted that based upon the percentage of recovery obtained, the Commission may wish to consider reducing its fees. Following inquiry by Commissioner Maxham, Thomas Steinke indicated that the current workload justifies the restoration of the wetlands compliance officer position. Frank Rice noted that he feels that there should be two wetlands compliance officers. Thomas Steinke discussed the repairs needed for the various culverts, and the fees included in the fees and professional services account, including funds needed for open space surveys, salt marsh restoration for mosquito control and contaminated sediment disposal. Following discussion, Kevin Gumpper *moved* and Joan Neiley *seconded* to approve the proposed Conservation Commission budget request with the elimination of all requests for personnel except for the restoration of the wetlands compliance officer position. *Motion passed unanimously*

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Southwest Conservation District Request For Annual Contribution: Kathleen Maxham *moved* and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* to table this matter pending action by the RTM on the H. Smith Richardson Conservation Fund Trust. *Motion passed unanimously*

- B. DEP Notice of Tentative Determination Intent to Renew A State Permit For The Following Discharge into the Waters of the State of Connecticut By Superior Plating Company, Lacey Place, Southport, CT 06890: Thomas Steinke summarized the application and recommended approval of the renewal of this permit. Kevin Gumpper *moved* and Kathleen Maxham *seconded* to have Staff send a letter to the DEP on behalf of the Conservation Commission recommending that it approve the renewal of the State Permit. *Motion passed unanimously*

IV. OTHER

- A. Fairfield Citizen – December 3, 2010 – “Community Effort Helps Stem Tide of Sasco Pollution”, Geoff Steadman for Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee: Informational.
- B. Conservation Department Maintenance Crew Report – Dike Repairs: Informational.
- C. Conservation Department Web-Site Statistics: Informational.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Kathleen Maxham *moved* and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Gabriel