

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT  
MINUTES OF CONSERVATION MEETING  
MAY 20, 2010**

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on May 20, 2010, in Meeting Room II of the Honorable John J. Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Chairman Lesser.

**APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES:** Elizabeth Jones, Douglas 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 Meeting of April 15, 2010: Elizabeth Jones *moved* and Kathleen Maxham *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes of April 15, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*
2. Approval of Secretary's Bill for April 15, 2010: Milan Bull *moved* and Frank Rice *seconded* to approve the Secretary's Bill for April 15, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Joan Neiley arrived at 7:36 p.m.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. 2010-2011 Budget (Status): Thomas Steinke advised the Commission that the RTM had recently voted on the Conservation 2010-2011 budget request; that vote included an \$8k reduction in the Conservation Department budget fees and professional services account; there was no indication as to which item was cut from that account.
- B. Town of Fairfield Organic Teaching Farm Proposal/Request For Lease of Town-Owned Land: Chairman Lesser indicated that he had recently attended a meeting on this matter, in which Kenneth Flatto, Thomas Steinke, Kathleen Maxham, Assistant Town Attorney Eileen Kennelly, and Gerald Lombardo were also present. At that meeting, various options for the location of the organic teaching farm were discussed, including the town owned property on Hoyden's Hill, known as the "Parsells" property. Ellery Plotkin, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission was also present this evening; Mr. Plotkin indicated that the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed this matter at its May 19, 2010 meeting. Mr. Plotkin referred to his letter of May 20, 2010 to Chairman Stanton Lesser, which set forth a motion made by that Commission concerning the Organic Teaching Farm (referred to as the "OTF"), as follows:

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

“the Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the Conservation Commission that the OTF be given a lease for one acre of land on the front Southwest Corner of the property as shown on attached map outlined in orange for the purpose of an organic teaching farm. The short-term lease would commence after the OTF provides proof of insurance and 501-C3 status, and would end on December 31, 2012 with an option of two one-year extensions. These extensions would be at the request of the OTF but with approval by the Town. Additionally, the Commission stated that there should be no domestic or farm animals on the premises. The Commission also approves a shed being erected on the property with the size agreed upon by both the Director of Conservation as well as the Director of Parks & Recreation.”

Following discussion, Kathleen Maxham *moved* and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* that the Conservation Commission recommend to the RTM that it adopt the May 19, 2010 motion of the Parks and Recreation Commission, as set forth in the May 20, 2010 letter from Ellery Plotkin, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission to Mr. Stanton Lesser, and to further recommend and endorse the relinquishment of any control of the parcel that the Conservation Commission may have to the Parks and Recreation Commission. *Motion passed unanimously.* A copy of the May 20, 2010 letter from Chairman Ellery Plotkin is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

- C. INCO/EXIDE Group, 2190 Post Road (Groundwater Study Summary Report Status): Thomas Steinke advised the Commission that there is continued groundwater monitoring at the site, in accordance with the DEP requirements. Mr. Steinke further indicated that there continues to be contaminated soils at the property that will be remediated in the future, and that the full groundwater summary report is available for review at the Conservation Department.
- D. CT DEP-OLISP, Application of Philip DiGennaro to Install A Non-Harbor Mooring in Long Island Sound off 607 Fairfield Beach Road: Thomas Steinke reported that Mr. DiGennaro has concerns with regard to potential effluent in the vicinity of the proposed non-harbor mooring area to be located at the sewer outfall pipe, and as such, declined that area as an alternative location for the placement of his boat, and will anchor off-shore if he visits the harbor.

**III. NEW BUSINESS** – None noted

**IV. OTHER**

- A. Conservation Department Web Site Statistics: Informational.
- B. H. Smith Richardson Conservation Fund Trust Quarterly Summary: Information. Kathleen Maxham noted that the newly appointed Co-Trustee, Bank of New York-Mellon is awaiting information from Town Attorney Richard Saxl to release the fund from Bank of New York. Specifically, the Board of Selectmen’s review is required. Thomas Steinke will follow up with Attorney Saxl regarding this matter.

- C. Earth Day Celebration May 8, 2010: Edward Jones noted that approximately 1000 people turned out for this event. The Commission noted that Commissioner Rice had volunteered his time, and conducted a book signing of the open space trail guide at the event.
- D. An Invitation to Visit – Fish Ladders and Lifts on the Connecticut River in Massachusetts: Informational.

Chairman Lesser indicated that Milan Bull had requested the opportunity to include the following item on this evening's meeting agenda, as follows:

Milan Bull *moved* and Joan Neiley *seconded* that the Conservation Commission acknowledge the recent passing of former Chairman, Philip Meiman, who was a dedicated and tireless advocate of the people, the open spaces and to the wildlife, and extended its sincere regret and sympathy to the Meiman family. *Motion passed unanimously.*

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Kathleen Maxham *moved* and Philip DiGennaro, Jr. *seconded* to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Gabriel