

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES OF CONSERVATION MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2011**

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on January 20, 2011, 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; and Kevin Gumper. **ALTERNATES:** Douglas Jones; Philip DiGennaro, Jr. and Elizabeth Jones. **ABSENT:** Milan Bull, Vice Chairman; Kathleen Maxham; Joan Neiley; and Landon Storrs. Also Present: Thomas Steinke, Conservation Director; Edward Jones, Open Space Manager; Annette Jacobson, Conservation Administrator; Richard Saxl, 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 Douglas Jones were appointed to sit as full members.

Philip DiGennaro, Jr. and Kevin Gumper arrived at 7:31 p.m.

I. CONSERVATION

A. Bills and Communications:

1. Approval of Minutes of the Conservation Commission December 16, 2010: Elizabeth Jones *moved* and Douglas Jones *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes of December 16, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*
2. Approval of Secretary's Bill for December 16, 2010: Elizabeth Jones *moved* and Douglas Jones *seconded* to approve the Secretary's Bill for December 16, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Remedial Action Plan Development For Lead Impacted River Sediments Mill River Study Areas I-V – The Former Exide Battery Facility Project – 2190 Boston Post Road, Fairfield, CT: The Commission reviewed Thomas Steinke's memo dated January 4, 2011 and the Exide's consultant's printed presentation to the DEP. Thomas Steinke provided the Commission with a summary of the proposal by Exide, which included a waiver of the "blackout periods" for the dredging that had been imposed to avoid the protective spawning periods for fish habitat (river herring, shellfish and winter flounder). Mr. Steinke indicated that all dredging options should be looked at, and noted that a combination of methods may be the best option to avoid adverse impacts. Attorney Richard Saxl was present and provided the Commission with a memo. Mr. Saxl noted that although the current DEP Order provides for a standard of 220 ppm, Exide may continue to pursue DEP approval to increase that standard to 400 ppm. The Commission discussed the chromium contamination at the Superior Plating site, and noted that the best option was to have the remediation coordinated to avoid disturbing/dredging in this area at separate times. Following considerable discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission that staff forward Thomas Steinke's memo to Superior Plating.

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

B. Fairfield Trails Guide – Second Printing – Estimates: Thomas Steinke noted that Geoff Steadman has been hired to coordinate the second printing of the trail guide. Frank Rice noted that he would like Geoff Steadman’s name included in the acknowledgements, as he was the author of 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.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Pequot Yacht Club – 669 Harbor Road, Fairfield – North Anchorage Dredging Project – Roberge Associates Referral to the Fairfield Shellfish Commission: Thomas Steinke provided the Commission with a description of the project, noting that there have been several dredging proposals in the North Anchorage. Devan Santa of Roberge Associates was also present on behalf of the Pequot Yacht Club. The proposal included dredging from a current depth of -6 MLW to a depth of -9 MLW, with approximately 20k cubic yards of material being dredged. Mr. Santa indicated that sampling has been conducted, but a report on the results has not yet been submitted. Thomas Steinke recommended that additional information be provided, including sampling data and reports, impact on the shellfish resource in the area, mitigation and dredging alternatives, and other information as outlined in his January 4, 2011 memo. Mr. Steinke further indicated that the Commission may wish to obtain the comments of the Shellfish Commission prior to making any recommendation to the CT DEP on this proposal. It was the consensus of the Commission to have this matter placed upon a future agenda for review and comment.
- B. DEP-OLISP Certificate of Permission Application of Roberge Associates For Stephanie Scott at 2308 Fairfield Beach Road to Reconstruct a Timber Bulkhead on Pine Creek: Devan Santa of Roberge Associates was present this evening on behalf of the applicant, Stephanie Scott. Thomas Steinke provided the Commission with a description of the proposal, noting that the applicant is seeking to take out the existing deteriorated bulkhead and reconstruct a new bulkhead in the current location. Mr. Steinke noted that he recommended approval of the application as long as the bulkhead, as reconstructed does not exceed beyond the current structure, and that no structure, dock or piling extend farther out than already permitted. Following discussion, Kevin Gumper *moved* and Douglas Jones *seconded* to recommend approval of the application of Stephanie Scott, in accordance with the recommendations of Thomas Steinke. *Motion passed unanimously.*

IV. OTHER

- A. Clemson Cooperative Extension – White Tailed Deer Management Strategies – Webcast Series: Registration information provided - Informational.

- B. Conservation Department Maintenance Crew Report – Dike Repairs: Informational.
- C. Conservation Department Web-Site Statistics: Information not available at this time.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Douglas Jones *moved* and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Gabriel