

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES OF CONSERVATION MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2011**

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a Meeting on February 17, 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 Kathleen Maxham.
ALTERNATES: Douglas Jones and Elizabeth Jones. **ABSENT:** Milan Bull, Vice Chairman; Kevin Gumper; Joan Neiley; Philip DiGennaro, Jr. and Landon Storrs. Also Present: Thomas Steinke, Conservation Director; Edward Jones, Open Space Manager; Annette Jacobson, Conservation Administrator; Noel Newman, Assistant Town Attorney, and members of the public and press.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Chairman Lesser.

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES: Elizabeth Jones and Douglas Jones were appointed to sit as full members.

I. CONSERVATION

A. Bills and Communications:

1. Approval of Minutes of the Conservation Commission January 20, 2011: Elizabeth Jones *moved* and Kathleen Maxham *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes of January 20, 2011 with the following revision: Subparagraph II. B. is revised to include a vote by the Conservation Commission to have Geoffrey Steadman's name included in the acknowledgements of the next printing of the trail guide. *Motion passed unanimously.*
2. Approval of Secretary's Bill for January 20, 2011: Kathleen Maxham *moved* and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* to approve the Secretary's Bill for January 20, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Combined Board of Selectman and Board of Finance Public Budget Hearings 2011 Schedule: The Commission acknowledged the scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance to review the Conservation Budget on March 14, 2011. The Commission noted receipt of the recommended cuts by the First Selectman. Following inquiry, Thomas Steinke advised the Commission that the First Selectman is not recommending replacement of the heavy duty truck which is currently in very poor condition. Mr. Steinke also noted that although there was \$5,000 approved in the 2010-2011 fiscal budget, this amount is insufficient to replace the vehicle. Staff will request that these funds be re-appropriated to the next fiscal budget.

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

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. US Army Corps of Engineers – 45 Day Public Notice For Reissuance of the Department of the Army Connecticut General Permit: Thomas Steinke advised the Commission that although the inland wetland aspects for this permit look very good, there are concerns with regard to the tidal wetland aspects as well as concern for the shellfish resources. The Commission reviewed Mr. Steinke's February 16, 2011 memo which outlined the concerns for the use of pile supported structures and floats. Mr. Steinke also recommended that in lieu of pile supported structures in the shellfish habitat areas, that a general permit be revised to allow the construction of strut-supported structures and skid-supported floats which would be removed as necessary, in conjunction with shellfish commission purposes. Mr. Steinke also noted that these recommendations are not anticipated to have any impact USACOE staff resources. Following discussion, Douglas Jones *moved* and Frank Rice *seconded* to have Conservation Staff forward a letter to the US Army Corps of Engineers recommending endorsement of the permit, incorporating Thomas Steinke's comments and recommendations set forth in his February 16, 2011 memo. *Motion passed unanimously.*
- B. DEP-OLISP Notice of Tentative Determination to Approve Application #200801481-TS of John Hilts for Joel Bronz and Carlo Ciardi at 21 and 23 Old Dam Road to Remove An Existing Dock and Stone, and to Install A New Dock with Boat Davits and Ladders: Thomas Steinke provided the Commission with a description of the activities proposed by the applicant, noting that he had reviewed the application with the CT-DEP and Mr. Hilts. Mr. Steinke also noted that he had met with Mr. Bronz and indicated that he found this to be a satisfactory proposal. Subsequent to his initial review and memo, he was reminded of one issue with regard to the rip-rap located along the bank in this area which serves to stabilize the dike – primarily at the northeasterly branch at the split where Pine Creek widens into the salt marsh. Since the proposal includes the removal of an unauthorized pier located at the base of the Town's flood control dike in Pine Creek, Mr. Steinke was concerned that if the rip rap were to be removed, it would have a negative impact on that area, as well as the applicants' property. Mr. Steinke suggested that the Commission endorse this application, with the condition that the applicant either leave the rip-rap in place or use another material sufficient to provide continued stabilization of the dike. Following discussion, Douglas Jones *moved*, and Kathleen Maxham *seconded* to approve the application with the condition that they stabilize the area of the Town dike, as recommended by Staff. *Motion passed unanimously.*

IV. OTHER

- A. Clemson Cooperative Extension – White Tailed Deer Management Strategies – Webcast Series: Informational.
- B. Eagle Scout Project – Richard Stelmaszek – Mill Hill Open Space Area - Informational.
- C. Conservation Department Maintenance Crew Report – Informational.

- D. Conservation Department Web Site Statistics – Informational.
- E. Kathleen Maxham inquired whether it would be beneficial to conduct the Inland Wetland Agency and Conservation Commission meetings on the same evening, noting that it would reduce the burden on both Staff and Commission members. Chairman Lesser indicated that Staff provides him with the agenda information each month, and that he had considered canceling the meeting this evening but did not do so since discussion on a matter was needed. Mr. Lesser noted that review of certain matters of business is time critical, and that the duration of the February Inland Wetland Agency meeting was anticipated to be much longer for the public hearing, but due to circumstances it was not. Douglas Jones suggested that it may be left up to Conservation Staff. Conducting the Inland Wetland Agency and Conservation Commission meetings on the same evening may be considered from time to time in the future, as monthly business dictates.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Kathleen Maxham *moved* and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Gabriel