

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT  
MINUTES OF CONSERVATION MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2012**

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a special meeting on January 5, 2012, in Meeting Room II, Second Floor Conference Room, John J. Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Stanton Lesser, Chairman; Milan Bull, Vice Chairman; Kevin Gumper, Secretary; Frank Rice; Joan Neiley; Catherine O'Donnell; and Kathleen Maxham. **ABSENT:** Elizabeth Jones; Douglas Jones and Philip DiGennaro, Jr. Also Present: Thomas Steinke, Conservation Director; Edward Jones, Wetlands Compliance Officer/Open Space Manager; Annette Jacobson, Conservation Administrator; and members of the public and press.

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Stanton Lesser.
- II. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES:** No Alternates were appointed to sit as a full member.
- III. CONSERVATION:**
- A. Bills and Communications:
1. Approval of Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2011: Milan Bull *moved*, and Kathleen Maxham *seconded* to approve the Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2011. *Motion passed unanimously.*
2. Approval of Secretary's Bill for December 15, 2011: Kathleen Maxham *moved*, and Joan Neiley *seconded* to approve the Secretary's Bill for December 15, 2011. *Motion passed unanimously.*

**IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Conservation Commission Review of Non-Regulatory Matters of Conservation Relevance: Stanton Lesser advised the Commission that he and Thomas Steinke recently met with First Selectman Michael Tetreau to discuss the Commission's efforts and role relative to its review of all current matters. This issue will continue to be reviewed, with possible procedural changes as well as revisions to the Commission's regulations. It was noted that Staff will prioritize its review of non-regulatory matters, in light of the reduction in staffing and budgetary restrictions. First Selectman Michael Tetreau may address the Conservation Commission on this subject at a future meeting.

B. CT DEEP-OLISP, Application No. 200802577-TS, Zecchi, to retain and repair existing timber bulkhead at 1774 Fairfield Beach Road, Fairfield: Thomas Steinke provided the Commission with a brief history of the project. The Commission acknowledged a letter from Attorney John P. Casey, received by the Conservation Department today, setting forth the offer by Mr. and Mrs. Zecchi

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

of \$70,000.00 in mitigation to be utilized for salt marsh restoration in Fairfield, despite any requirement by the CT DEEP to do so. It was the recommendation of Thomas Steinke that the Conservation Commission vote to conceptually endorse the acceptance of this offer of mitigation, and to refer the offer to town attorney. Following discussion, Kevin Gumper *moved*, and Milan Bull *seconded* to have Conservation Staff advise the CT DEEP that the Conservation Commission endorses this proposal. *Motion passed unanimously.*

C. CT DEEP-OLISP, Application No. 201102573-TS, Pequot Yacht Club, to conduct dredging for marine commercial use, at 669 Harbor Road, Southport: Thomas Steinke advised the Commission that it had previously reviewed this matter, and that the CT DEEP-OLISP was now prepared to endorse the project. Mr. Steinke provided the Commission with a brief description of the proposal, noting his concern that the benthic testing conducted by the applicant's representative was insufficient, in that no testing had been done in the side slopes. Mr. Steinke indicated that the dredging activities may result in a loss of resource, and that the additional testing is necessary, since the side slopes are the most productive shellfish habitat, and sampling of the basin bottom was not representative of the existing conditions. Mr. Steinke further noted that the Shellfish Commission had previously reviewed the project and did not find that the proposal would have an adverse impact. Milan Bull concurred with Mr. Steinke that it would be useful to document the existing resource before any dredging occurs. Devin Santa of Roberge Associates spoke on behalf of the applicant, noting that the applicant would like to move this project forward; it was further noted that dredging is only permitted during July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>. Any additional testing of the area would require the approval and coordination with the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture. Following considerable discussion, Kevin Gumper *moved*, and Frank Rice *seconded* that the Conservation Commission not make any comment to the CT DEEP-OLISP on this matter, and to rely on the comments of the Shellfish Commission. *Motion passed unanimously.*

V. **NEW BUSINESS:** None noted.

VI. **OTHER:** None noted.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Frank Rice *moved* and Kathleen Maxham *seconded* to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Gabriel