

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT  
MINUTES OF CONSERVATION MEETING  
APRIL 19, 2012**

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on April 19, 2012, in Meeting Room II, Second Floor Conference Room, John J. Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kevin Gumper, Chairman; Catherine O'Donnell; Secretary; Elizabeth Jones; Frank Rice; and Kathleen Maxham. **ALTERNATES:** *Note: Three vacancies.* **ABSENT:** Joan Neiley; Milan Bull, Vice Chairman. Also Present: Edward Jones, Wetlands Compliance Officer/Open Space Manager; Annette Jacobson, Conservation Administrator; and members of the public and press.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:46 p.m. by Kevin Gumper.

**APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES:** All three Alternate Commissioner positions currently vacant.

**I. CONSERVATION:**

**A. Bills and Communications:**

1. Approval of Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2012: Catherine O'Donnell *moved*, and Kathleen Maxham *seconded* to approve the March 15, 2012 meeting minutes. *Motion passed unanimously.*

2. Approval of Secretary's Bill for March 15, 2012: Elizabeth Jones *moved*, and Kathleen Maxham *seconded* to approve the Secretary's Bill for March 15, 2012. *Motion passed unanimously.*

3. Elizabeth H. Jones appointed as Full Member: The Commission congratulated Elizabeth Jones on her recent appointment as a Full Member.

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Srinivasan and Sapna Iyer, 148 Evelyn Street, Southport, Request to utilize Conservation Easement as backyard lawn: Edward Jones provided the Commission with a summary, noting that complaints had been called in to the Conservation Department regarding tree cutting at 148 Evelyn Street. Upon investigation, it was determined that the tree cutting was due to storm damage, and that the property owners of 148 Evelyn Street had also cut down trees on Town open space property. Upon direction by Mr. Jones, the Iyers immediately stopped the tree cutting; the property boundaries have been identified. Encroachments into the conservation easement area by the Iyers were also noted. Mr. Jones advised the Commission that although there is a small terrace area, there currently is no usable backyard for children, and that it is feasible that the encroachments by the new property owners were unintentional. Mr. Jones recommended that the owners: (1) be allowed a minimal encroachment into the conservation easement area; (2) be allowed to place a small amount of fill at the site in order to create usable yard area; (3) be required to construct a stone wall to provide a buffer to the conservation area; and (4) plant indigenous

**DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO REVIEW, CORRECTION AND APPROVAL BY  
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plantings at the site. Mr. Jones noted that he did not anticipate any adverse affect on the drainage with the proposed minimal filling he was recommending.

The property owners, Srinivasan and Sapna Iyer were both present. Mr. Iyer indicated that he was unaware of the restrictions when he purchased the property. Mr. Iyer further noted that he had cut some of the trees as a protective measure, following a rain/storm event which had caused some trees to fall. Mr. Iyer indicated that he does not feel that he should be required to incur the expense of constructing a stone wall and offered to replace the trees (on the Town open space). The Commission discussed this matter at length, noting that some of the easement area is currently mowed. Mrs. Iyer presented color photographs of the area and gave a description of the existing conditions. Annette Jacobson indicated that the expansion of the deck by the prior owner (without the benefit of a building permit) reduced the amount of level yard area at the site, and suggested that the placement of a rubble wall with no mortar would not be cost prohibitive. Edward Jones noted that the use by the Iyers of the entire conservation easement area would not provide any buffer to the wetland, and at a minimum, the area should be delineated with boulders. The Conservation Staff will conduct some measurements using the iron pins that are in place. It was the consensus of the Commission that this matter be tabled to the May Conservation Commission meeting so that Staff can work with the Iyers in an attempt to reach an agreement for a plan which will allow some use of the easement area as yard, while maintaining some protected easement area.

## **II. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Proposed American Chestnut Plantings by the Fairfield Garden Club in cooperation with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station on Open Space Areas: Mr. Jones and the Conservation Crew have been spending a lot of time on this project – putting in about 100 plantings. A dedication ceremony will be conducted tomorrow, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

B. DEEP-OLISP COP #201200343-TS for the Town of Fairfield- CT DEP Wetlands Habitat and Mosquito Management Program (WHAMM) –Integrated Marsh Management (IMM); Marsh Mosquito Control – Army Corp of Engineers Permit #NAE-2012-0249: Mr. Jones indicated that the Town is trying to get the tidal marshes done. Staff will continue to keep the Commission apprised concerning this project.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

B. Official Signing Ceremony of the Sasco Brook Watershed Based Plan – April 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., Southport Beach, Fairfield, CT: Informational.

## **VI. OTHER:**

A. Southwest Conservation District Equine Agricultural Waste Management Workshop- Fairfield County Hunt Club, 174 Long Lots Road, Westport, CT-June 5, 2012 - Informational. Mr. Jones noted that this is all part of the Sasco Watershed Plan; a tour will be provided and discussion on the best management practices being implemented.

B. Agriculture, Forestry and Wetlands Protection in Connecticut – Produced by The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: Informational.

C. Fairfield Earth Day Celebration, April 28, 2012 at Fairfield Warde High School – Commissioners were encouraged to volunteer at this event. Frank Rice noted that he will be volunteering and that the open space trail guide will be sold at this event.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Catherine O'Donnell *moved* and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Gabriel