

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES OF SPECIAL CONSERVATION MEETING
August 2, 2012**

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on August 2, 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; Milan Bull, Vice Chairman; Catherine O'Donnell, Secretary; Frank Rice, Kathleen Maxham, and Elizabeth Jones, *Note: One vacancy.* **ALTERNATES:** Letitia Ferguson, *Note: Two alterante vacancies..* Also Present: Thomas Steinke, Conservation Director, Annette Jacobson, Conservation Administrator, Edward Jones, Wetlands Compliance Officer/Open Space Manager, and members of the public and press.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:53 p.m. by Kevin Gumper.

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES: Letitia Ferguson was appointed to sit as a full member.

I. CONSERVATION:

A. Bills and Communications:

1. Approval of Conservation Commission Meeting May 17, 2012: Kathleen Maxham *moved*, and Milan Bull *seconded* to approve the May 17, 2012 meeting minutes with a revision to vacancies of full members to one vacancy and alternate members to two. *Motion passed unanimously.*

2. Approval of Secretary's Bill for May 17, 2012: Kathleen Maxham *moved*, and Frank Rice *seconded* to approve the Secretary's Bill for May 17, 2012. *Motion passed unanimously.*

II. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Open Space Trail Guide – Thomas Steinke stated first printing of trail guides were sold at \$15.00. Second printing comes out to \$17.00 plus some change. Mr. Steinke recommended selling the second printing at the same price of \$15.00. This covers all printing cost. Frank Rice questioned working on getting Trail Guides on the Town web-site for the public to download. Figures and maps are taking longer to load on to web page. Thomas Steinke said he is working with Geoffe Steadman on the format to get on the web page. Elizabeth Jones indicated that perhaps we may start a Conservation “app” for public to have on hand if out on trails. Milan Bull *moved*, and Elizabeth Jones *seconded* to sell Trail Guides at \$15.00 each. *Motion passed unanimously.*

B. Exide Group Incorporated, Remedial Action Plan for lead-impact sediments in the Mill River – Discussion on review of video, and Thomas Steinke's letter regarding rail road drainage. Commission complimented Thomas Steinke's history of Exide.

C. Greater Bridgeport Regional Council – Conservation Technical Advisory Commission – Kathleen Maxham volunteered to be Conservation Commissions representative. Has had only one organizational meeting thus far. The council’s concept is that the quarterly meetings are to be for the representatives of each town and the monthly meetings are to be held in the different towns that are part of the council to get public feedback.

D. Srinivasan and Sapna Iyer, 148 Evelyn Street, Southport – Request to utilize Conservation Easement as backyard lawn – The Iyers were not present at this meeting. Staff is recommending that the Iyers be allowed to use the central Conservation Easement up to the Town Open Space Boundary Line. Edward Jones wants reasons to why they are allowed to do this, such as mitigating factors. Commissioner Gumper questioned whether there should be a motion to approve Edward Jones notes of April 13, 2012 or should it be tabled to next meeting so the Iyers can be present. Letitia Ferguson moved and Elizabeth Jones seconded to table this matter to the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. The Governor’s Steering Committee on Climate Change – 2011 DRAFT Connecticut Climate Change Preparedness Plan – No Discussion.

B. CT DEEP Draft Connecticut Statewide Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Bacteria Impaired Water – Commissioner Gumper questioned if we had bacteria impaired waters in Fairfield. Thomas Steinke stated that yes we do in all major inland waterways and coastline, salt and fresh water. This TMDL is regarding Bacteria, there are other TMDL’s related to other impairments. No action needed.

C. Ash Creek Conservation Association, Inc – Advisory Committee for the Ecological Master Plan for the Ash Creek Estuary – Sought and obtained grant. Decision to approve grant required one town person from Fairfield and one from Bridgeport to be on committee for grant. Sought grant for \$45,000 to cover the area from the mouth of Ash Creek to Kings Highway, North Avenue Bridge. They received \$10,000 and started the project from St. Mary’s to Brewster Street Bridge, Black Rock Turnpike. No action needed.

D. Request from Paul McMilland to install a park bench with plaque at Brett Woods Open Space Area – Commissioner Gumper noted the policy of no park bench dedications in Open Spaces. Edward Jones stated that if requested they can do a bump bench which is a cut log on two small logs, there would be no plaque and the Conservation Department will maintain. Commissioners discussed other options such as planting a native plant with no plaque. Kevin Gumper said that if the Town of Fairfield had a plan for trail markers then it would be considered but the commission should not add anything such as new structures. Frank Rice noted the handicap trail behind Senior Center and that seniors will need benches. Rotary club in other areas may donate benches. Milan Bull questioned that if a tree planting was done would we need the Town Tree Wardens approval. Consensus was unsure and would need to check with Town Attorney. Milan Bull moved and Elizabeth seconded to send a thank you letter for the offer of the bench although we suggest that he may want to consider planting a tree or a bump bench with no dedication. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Request of Ms. Kelly of Tomlinson Middle School to hold a cross country meet at Lake Mohegan Open Space Area – Edward Jones noted it has been approved for three years. Kate Maxham moved and Letitia Ferguson seconded to have cross country meet at Lake Mohegan. Motion pass unanimously.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Elizabeth Jones moved and Cathy O' Donnell seconded to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Cortney Baranyai

DRAFT