

## Conservation Commission

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### DRAFT MINUTES

Special Meeting  
February 22, 2011  
5:00 p.m.  
Town Hall

Having a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm. In attendance were Sue Frisch (Chairperson), Shelley Harms (Vice-chairperson), John Anderson (Secretary), Pebble Potter, and Libby Borden. Also present were alternate members Nash Pradhan and Adair Mali.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. There was discussion regarding removing the second sentence under Reports: Open Space Plan. A **MOTION** by Harms, and seconded, to approve the Minutes of the January 5, 2011 regular meeting with the second sentence under Reports: Open Space Plan deleted carried four to one (Harms, Potter, Borden, and Frisch voting in favor; with Anderson voting in opposition).

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Frisch noted several pieces of correspondence. A letter from Linda Roberts, Executive Director of the Connecticut Siting Council, dated February 10, 2011, in response to the letter sent from Sue Frisch for the Conservation Commission, dated January 10, 2011, thanking her for her comments and stated that the Council does not have authority to issue a moratorium regarding petitions for wind generating facilities. Attached was a public hearing notice dated February 7, 2011 for petitions 983 and 984 by BNE Energy, Inc. regarding proposed wind generating facilities in adjacent Colebrook.

Also received was a public notice dated January 25, 2011 from the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding the reissuance of the Department of the Army Connecticut General Permit to continue the expedited review process for activities in the Corps jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. Comments are due by March 14, 2011.

A letter dated February 9, 2011 and attachment were received from the Board of Selectmen regarding the Conservation Commission's 2011/2012 budget. Details of this will be discussed under New Business.

#### REPORTS

Invasive species projects. Mali reported that work is progressing on the invasive species poster. Open Space Plan. Harms reported that she is making progress on the plan.

Public Education. Frisch discussed a draft list of educational projects and methods she prepared for the meeting.

Assessment of Town-owned Lands. Anderson said that there was nothing new to report at this time.

City Meadow. Mali reported that a meeting of the City Meadow Committee was held on February 16, 2011 with Sean Hayden as guest speaker. Input was solicited from the audience for

interesting or desirable ideas for the use of City Meadow. A possible plan was presented to create a series of wetlands, swales and pools that would treat storm water, for which a grant may be available. Downtown parking issues were also discussed. Mali reported that the City Meadow Committee will continue to move forward. The Commission members discussed some of the ideas presented at this meeting.

GIS software. There was discussion on a Geographic Information System for the Town. Borden reported on a meeting with Michelle Sloan, Town Assessor, and Michael Morin, Northwest Conservation District. Morin will be working on updating the parcel map layer.

The Public Comment period was suspended due to lack of attendance by the public.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Addenda to NRI. Frisch circulated a copy of a photo of the jellyfish found in Toby Pond. There was a name misspelled in the caption that will be corrected. A **MOTION** by Harms, and seconded, to put this photo with the corrected caption on the Commission NRI web page was approved by unanimous vote.

Frisch also reported that she has made progress on the moth list and hopes to be finished soon.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Budget. There was discussion of the Commission budget for the next fiscal year. In response to the letter from the Selectmen, it was suggested that the item "Dues" with a budget of \$1500 be changed to "Dues and Subscriptions" with a budget of \$750 and that the item "Conferences" with a budget of \$750 be changed to "Conferences and Public Education" with a budget of \$1500. A **MOTION** by Harms, and seconded, to maintain the budget total of \$2250 with the item changes suggested was approved by unanimous vote.

Water testing and runoff from the old landfill. Harms noted a complaint she had received from a Winsted resident that the Mad River in Winsted was being contaminated by runoff from the discontinued and capped Norfolk landfill on Route 44. There was some discussion about this matter. **ACTION:** Harms will follow up on this issue with First Selectman Sue Dyer.

Conservation Commission. Frisch announced that she will resign from the Commission effective February 23, 2011. She stated that she was honored to have served as Chairperson, that it had been a pleasure to serve with her fellow Commissioners and acknowledged everyone's hard work. She gave the Secretary a copy of the letter dated February 23, 2011 that she will submit to the Town Clerk. Commission members thanked Frisch for her long and good service, especially shepherding the NRI to completion.

The second Public Comment period was suspended due to lack of public attendance.

Action items were reviewed. The Agenda for the next meeting was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Anderson, Secretary  
February 24, 2011