



Town of Groton, Connecticut
Meeting Minutes
Conservation Commission

Office of Planning and
Development Services
134 Groton Long Point Road
Groton, CT 06340

860-446-5970

Monday, September 10, 2018

5:15 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 3

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

I.1 Roll Call

Members: Rafferty, Dunn, Fitzpatrick, Dunphy, Distant, Dollard
Staff: Jones

The Commission welcomed new members Distant and Dollard

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

II.1 August 6, 2018

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes of August 6, 2018 as written.

Motion made by Dunphy, seconded by Fitzpatrick, so voted unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

III.1 Public Communications

Roger Kuhns, 7 Bradley Lane, stated that he was interested in the Commission's discussion of the Plastic Reduction Study.

Town Councilor Conrad Heede stated that he initiated the referral of the Plastic Reduction Study to the Commission and was present to answer questions.

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

IV.1 Plastic Reduction Study

Dunn, Fitzpatrick, and Dunphy reviewed their August 28, 2018, conversation with the Town Council Committee of the Whole, noting that there was not a consensus as to the scope of the study. Dunn reviewed his notes of the meeting which were included in the agenda packet. The only clear direction given to the Commission was that any recommended actions to limit the use of plastics should be accomplished within existing town ordinances and that the Commission is to report back to the Council in six months.

The Commission agreed on the following tasks to be completed by the next meeting and

assigned commission members to each task:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Fitzpatrick | Research existing Town ordinances |
| Dunn | Research pending State legislation |
| Dollard | Research existing plastic reduction programs |
| Distante | Review the South Kingstown plastic use survey, research other surveys and develop a list of survey questions |
| Rafferty | Research plastic reduction reports |
| Dunphy | Research plastic reduction studies |

Rafferty recognized Kuhns who agreed that a survey is a good place to start and offered to help conduct it. He also suggested a stepwise program to encourage the public to use less plastic. This could start with an education program that leads to incentives that then leads to an ordinance regulating its use.

Councilor Heede offered to help with any of the tasks.

IV.2 Mystic Hollow Resubdivision

Staff reviewed the proposed six lot subdivision on Sandy Hollow Road and noted the qualities of the proposed open space. The open space contains uplands and wetlands associated with Bindloss Brook. The Commission noted that Avalonia owns open space on the east side of High Street that protects Bindloss Brook. By consensus, the Commission recommended that the open space be deeded to the town.

IV.3 Sustainable CT Update

Staff reviewed the program, noting that Groton has registered by has not applied for certification. Dollard noted that she was a SustainableCT fellow, working out of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments office, helping municipalities to apply for certification.

IV.4 Conservation Plan Update

The Commission reviewed maps that showed state owned, private land trust owned, and City of Groton owned lands as well as land classified as farm or forest with reduced assessments. Staff noted that she is working on the town owned open space land map and it should be available at the next meeting. The Commission asked that the state, land trust, City and farm/forest lands be shown on one map and they will review it against the greenway plan.

Dunphy will provide comments regarding the Harbor Management Plan recommendation and the development of buffers to mitigate sea level rise. Fitzpatrick will provide a review of The Nature Conservancy's Salt Marsh Migration report.

IV.5 Open Space Economic Model update

Dunn reviewed the changes to the document. Rafferty will provide comments.

V. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

V.1 Report of Chairman - None

VI. REPORT OF STAFF

VI.1 Report of Staff

Staff distributed the schedule for the Town Beautification Committee.

Staff reported that Bruce Lofgren has been hired as the new Planner I and will be attending the next Commission meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

VII.1 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Larry Dunn, Secretary
Conservation Commission

Prepared by Deborah Jones
Assistant Director