

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2015 - 5:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX, COMMUNITY ROOM 3

I. ROLL CALL

Commission: Rafferty, Munn, Lawton, Frost
Staff: Jones

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF November 3, 2014

MOTION: To approve the minutes of November 3, 2014

Motion by Munn, seconded by Frost, so voted unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Election of Officers

MOTION: To nominate and elect Rafferty as chairman, Frost as vice-chairman and Munn as secretary

Motion by Munn, second by Frost, so voted unanimously.

2. Conservation Plan Review

The Commission members discussed each Conservation or Open Space Plan that they had reviewed.

Lawton – Washington and Tolland

Washington Focused on one goal
Developed by the Commission

Tolland Useful maps
Systematic listing of resources
Well written description of town in terms of history and resources

Munn – Salem and Redding

Salem Conducted a survey to determine the residents' priorities – natural resource protection, recreation and rural character preservation
Identified desirable open space characteristics rather than specific parcels
Maps were not useful

Redding Clear cut objectives
Clearly listed progress in acquisition
Addressed both acquisition and protection

Frost – South Windsor and Willington

South Windsor Open Space master plan

Included a vision statement

Discussed reasons for acquiring open space – visual, natural resources, active/passive and cultural

Discussed implementation success or failure of past plans

Defined the process to evaluate and acquire properties

Effective ranking system for parcels

Willington Natural Resource Inventory and Open Space and Conservation Plan

Effective use of public resources and agencies

Inventoried both natural and cultural resources

Logical methodology and ranking system

Rafferty – Stonington and Colchester

Stonington Clear goals and action plan

Emphasis on enhancing existing open space parcels

Good parcel rating sheet

Colchester Includes guiding principals

Management principals or plan for each property

Financial analysis of open space

Referenced best management practices and standards of other groups

The Commission agreed that there was very little information in the 1990 plan that would be appropriate in the update. The maps should be included to evaluate progress. They agreed that clear goals, a parcel evaluation form, a review of the implementation of past plans, and a description of the types of open space to be protected should be included in the update. Rafferty suggested that sea level rise, sustainability and marsh migration should also be addressed. Frost noted that the update should be consistent with the POCD and the Future Land Use Plan.

Staff will compile a list of items to be included in the update based on the Commission's discussion and will send the South Windsor evaluation methodology to the Commission.

V. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN - None

VI. REPORT OF STAFF - None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Gail Munn, Secretary
Conservation Commission

Prepared by Deborah G. Jones
Environmental Planner