

MINUTES
TOWN OF GROTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 4, 2013 - 5:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX, COMMUNITY ROOM

I. ROLL CALL

Commission: Goulet, Rafferty, Bogue, Munn
Staff: Jones

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF February 4, 2013

MOTION: To approve the minutes of February 4, 2013

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

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Special Permit #331, Elm Grove Cemetery Association, 0 Welles Road

Staff reviewed the Zoning Commission referral of Special Permit #331 regarding processing up to 150,000 cubic yards of earth material at the Elm Grove Cemetery Association property on Welles Road. The property is used as a staging area for the three cemeteries maintained by the Association.

The Commission noted that the property is shown on their map of properties desirable for protection because of the presence of Red Brook, wetlands and a number of adjacent town-owned properties. They agreed that it is unlikely that the processing area will impact Red Brook or its associated wetlands.

2. Review of Land Currently Assessed as Farm or Forest Under PA 490

The Commission reviewed the map showing properties assessed under PA 490 against their map of properties desirable for protection. They noted that many properties are shown on both maps. They discussed whether any additional protection would be provided by expanding the PA 490 program to include open space.

The Commission discussed whether upland properties should be protected to allow for tidal marsh migration as sea level rises.

V. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

Rafferty updated the Commission on the work of the Trails Coordination Committee which is working toward consistent signage for all trails in town.

The Commission discussed how to discourage residents from dumping yard waste on town owned open space land.

Rafferty noted that the State DEEP is accepting nominations for greenway designations.

VI. REPORT OF STAFF

Staff distributed newsletters and a copy of a water diversion permit allowing the interconnection of Groton Utilities and Aquarion Water Companies

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Gail Munn, Secretary
Conservation Commission

Prepared by Deborah G. Jones
Environmental Planner