

MINUTES  
TOWN OF GROTON  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING  
JUNE 4, 2012 - 5:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL ANNEX, COMMUNITY ROOM 3

I. ROLL CALL

Commission: Rafferty, Munn, Goulet, Bogue

Staff: Jones

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF April 2, 2012

MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 2, 2012

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

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Joellen Anderson reported that the Connecticut Trail Day hike across town was cancelled due to the weather and will be rescheduled. She also asked for Commission help in keeping the public from following trails from Beebe Woods onto a conservation easement area on private property. The Commission will send a memo to the Parks and Recreation Department outlining the problem and asking for help in resolving the problem. Goulet suggested the private property owner install a fence to prevent the trespass.

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Request from the Groton Open Space Association (GOSA) for Endorsement of GOSA's Open Space and Watershed Land Grant Application

Susan Sutherland, representing GOSA, reviewed the attributes of the 90 acres of land off Lambtown Road and Route 184 that GOSA may purchase. She noted the wetlands, species and other natural features on the three parcels. There are protected properties to the north in Ledyard and there is a small piece of town-owned open space to the south. She noted that a 40,000 square foot parcel near Route 184 would be reserved for the current owner.

Rafferty asked whether dogs or horses would be allowed on the property. Ms. Sutherland replied that access is determined by the full GOSA board, but that she did not see any reason why dogs or horses would not be allowed. She noted that a handicapped accessible trail could be developed on the northern most parcel.

Staff reviewed a number of maps and plans. She noted that these parcels are not on the Commission's list of properties to be protected and that a multi-use trail is recommended to be constructed from Lambtown Road to Route 117 by the Master Trail Plan. The Plan of Conservation and Development recommends a road connection between Route 117 and Lambtown Road and that open space is not recommended in this area.

Munn stated that she had walked the property and noted that there were diverse habitats.

MOTION: To support the Groton Open Space Association's application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for Open Space and Watershed Land funds.

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

2. Review of Tilcon, Inc Properties – 0 Gold Star Highway

The Commission reviewed their May site walk. They noted that there are existing trails, exposed granite and a pitch pine forest. They will review their criteria for adding parcels to their list of properties desirable for protection at the next meeting.

3. Conservation Commission Assignment to the Plan of Conservation and Development and Municipal Coastal Plan Update Steering Committee

The Commission agreed that Chairman Rafferty will serve as the Commission representative to the steering committee.

V. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

Rafferty asked that staff remind the Town Manager to re-appoint members whose terms have expired.

Rafferty noted that he had attended the annual meeting of the Pequot Woods Board of Directors.

The Commission reviewed maps provided by DEEP that show areas at the Mystic Education Center that are managed by the Department. Staff noted that the State has approved the construction of a trail. The paperwork will be completed after the new Parks and Recreation Director is hired.

The Commission scheduled a clean-up of Industrial Drive for June 18, 2012 at 3:00. They will meet at the town park on Depot Road. Munn will coordinate with Public Works.

VI. REPORT OF STAFF

Staff distributed a memorandum from Stacey Leitch regarding Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Rafferty, Bogue and Goulet confirmed that they would volunteer to work that day; Munn will check her schedule.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

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Gail Munn, Secretary  
Conservation Commission

Prepared by Deborah G. Jones  
Environmental Planner