

MINUTES
TOWN OF GROTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2013 - 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 June 3, 2013

MOTION: To approve the minutes of June 3, 2013

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

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None.

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. 2014 Conservation Commission Meeting Schedule

MOTION: To adopt the 2014 meeting schedule as presented.

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

2. Trail Coordinating Task Force update

Staff reported that the new interactive trails web page is now live and can be accessed through the Town's web site. A limited number of town-owned properties are highlighted. The page will be expanded to include other town owned land, Groton Open Space Association properties and Avalonia Land Conservancy properties.

Rafferty noted that he and Munn had attended the panel discussion regarding public access to the trails on the Groton Utilities watershed lands and reviewed the main discussion points.

3. 2013 POCD Parks, Recreation and Open Space memo

The Commission discussed the memo. Staff noted that the information would be presented at the November 21, 2013 public meeting where input would be sought regarding future open space protection and improvements.

4. Open Space Grant Announcement

Staff reported that she will be meeting with the Town Manager this month to discuss preparation of a short list of properties that the Town may be interested in purchasing with a DEEP Open Space Grant. She noted that there is little matching money as most of the open space funds were spent on the purchase of the Sparkle Lake Conservation Area.

The Commission reviewed their map of properties desirable for some type of protection. Staff noted that the Weber property, surrounded by the Mortimer Wright open space, is the only parcel recommended for purchase. She has had discussions with the owner of some of the Gungywamp parcels about selling to the Town. The Commission discussed purchase of the Fish-Leuba properties on Sandy Hollow Road and Ledgeland Drive, the Tilcon properties off Route 184 and Rogers Road and the Merritt property off Haley Farm Lane.

V. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

Rafferty reported that he attended the POCD Steering Committee meeting last month where presentations were made regarding the Build Out Analysis and the Municipal Coastal Program. Staff noted that these presentations will be on the Town's web site in the next couple of weeks.

Rafferty reported that the Town has enacted a blight ordinance and distributed a draft informational brochure.

VI. REPORT OF STAFF - None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn at 7:10.

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

Gail Munn, Secretary
Conservation Commission

Prepared by Deborah G. Jones
Environmental Planner