

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2008 - 5:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX, COMMUNITY ROOM 3

I. ROLL CALL

Commission: Kroll, Munn, Bogue, Rafferty (5:30), Geary (6:00)
Staff: D. Jones, Public Works Director Schneider

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF September 8, 2008

MOTION: To approve the minutes of September 8, 2008.

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

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Groton Recycling Program

Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, reviewed his August 12, 2008 memorandum regarding the town's recycling program. He noted that the town does not provide municipal solid waste pick up. This service is provided by different entities depending on where one lives. The recycling rates are fairly low and are not approaching the state goal of 50 per cent. He reported that Navy Housing has gone to a single stream recycling program and that the regional authority is exploring this option. The material collected for recycling varies from hauler to hauler. A town ordinance exists to authorize town-wide collection of solid waste but the Town Council has not directed or funded such a Public Works program.

Mr. Schneider reviewed the agreements between the member municipalities for the Preston incinerator operations. He noted the penalties for bringing recyclable material to the incinerator.

Rafferty asked how the recycling program could be improved. Schneider answered that having one collector would be more efficient and would eliminate multiple trucks from different haulers picking up material in the same neighborhood.

Geary noted that the Commission feels strongly that providing recycling bins would increase recycling rates. Schneider believes that giving the public incentives to recycle is necessary in order to increase the rates. He noted the cost of previous programs to provide bins and believes that there is an undesignated fund balance in the solid waste fund that could be used to purchase bins if authorized by the Council.

Based on this discussion, the Commission felt that the following actions would increase recycling rates in town:

1. Develop a uniform informational brochure for the entire town, regardless of hauler or collection district, regarding what materials can be collected for recycling by the region. Consideration should be given to instituting a single source recycling program.
2. Encourage homeowners to increase recycling by providing recycling bins which could be purchased with the undesignated fund balance or operating budget of the solid waste fund.
3. Develop a program to educate residents about what items are recyclable.

The Commission asked staff to develop a memorandum to the Town Council regarding these actions. They thanked Mr. Schneider for attending the meeting.

2. Approval of 2009 Regular Meeting Schedule

MOTION: To approve the 2009 regular meeting schedule.

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

V. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN – None.

VI. REPORT OF STAFF

Staff noted the public presentation of the Drinking Water Quality Management Plan on October 15 at 6:30 at the Town Hall Annex.

Staff asked if the December meeting could be rescheduled. The Commission agreed to hold the meeting on December 8, 2008.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Brae Rafferty, Chairman
Conservation Commission

Prepared by Deborah G. Jones
Environmental Planner

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