

**Town of Wethersfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of the October 12, 2011 Meeting**

Page 1 of 1

Co-Chairman Robert Pulford called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM in the Town Hall Conference Room, which was attended by Commissioners Ingrid Boelhouwer, Rick Doran, Ralph Moyer, and Rebecca Zalznock. Also in attendance was Kathy Bagley, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes for September 14, 2011 were reviewed and on a Motion by R. Moyer, Seconded by R. Doran, approved unanimously.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. K. Bagley presented a notice of "Tentative Determination" sent to the Town from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) regarding a stream encroachment Permit application submitted by DiCioccio Brothers. The application is for a property located on Elm Street and known as Lot 4 on Tax Assessor Map 280, and is for the construction of a 4,000 square feet building and associated gravel parking lot. This construction will affect 0.258 acres riverward within the regulated boundary of the Connecticut River. A copy of the application is on file at the DEEP Inland Water Resource Division, with any written comments to be submitted by November 4, 2011. More information regarding this application will be needed to determine if the Commission or the Town would like to submit any comments on the construction.
- b. Ingrid Boelhouwer provided copies of an article titled *Perpetuity: The Creed of Land Conservation or "Conservationists Have to Win Again and Again"* (by Mark Robinson) to the Commissioners asking that everyone read the article which discusses the need to assure that conservation land has the legal protection to remain as open space.

III. K. BAGLEY REPORT

- a. The Town Council recently designated the Parks and Recreation Board as the "Harbor Management Commission" which is charged with the creation of a "Harbor Management Plan". A Draft Plan will be posted on the Town's web site soon.
- b. The Army Corps of Engineers has funded the study of sediment quality in the Cove as part of preliminary work associated with a Grant application to fund the dredging of the Cove. The sediment sample results will be used to estimate the costs to dispose of the dredged materials, should the Town be awarded a Grant.
- c. The Northeast Utilities parcels on Cumberland Avenue were discussed in response to a memo sent to Mayor Hemmann by the Town Manager Jeff Bridges. According to the September 21, 2011 memo, the Capital Region Education Council (CREC) is in agreement with the property owner to purchase five contiguous parcels identified as:
 - a "Main Parcel" consisting of 9.8 acres which contains the building;
 - a 0.5 acre parcel abutting the east/northeast boundary of the Main Parcel, and fronts Wolcott Hill Road;
 - a 3 acre parcel abutting the east/southeast boundary of the Main Parcel, and fronts Wolcott Hill Road;
 - a 1.46 parcel abutting the west boundary of the Main Parcel that contains a paved parking lot; and
 - a 4.64 acre parcel that abuts the west boundary of the 1.46 acre parking lot parcel, comprised of a wooded lot.

Once purchased, CREC will agree to grant the Town an option to purchase the 1.46 acre parcel (parking lot) and the abutting 4.64 acre parcel (wooded lot) at fair market value.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. The Town Council has decided to take no further actions related to the potential sale of the Savage Park parcel (Silas Deane Highway) and the Crest Street parcel owned by the Town.
- b. R. Duran reported on the status of the Sylvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge for the Connecticut River Watershed Council, and contacted the office of Richard Potvin, the Connecticut area representative. According to Stacy Burns of that office, the Council conducts various ongoing programs that include maintaining educational centers and exhibits along the watershed; the completion of natural resource inventories and monitoring in the watershed; various research projects; and partnerships with private landowners to conduct educational and research projects on their land. Mr. Duran will inquire about the process necessary for the Conservation Commission to receive their newsletter.

Co-Chairman Pulford adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM under a Motion by R. Duran and seconded by R. Moyer.

Respectfully submitted by

Rebecca M. Zalznock