

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OCTOBER 28, 2010
LONG HILL ROOM**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Ellen Lemay at 7:00. In attendance as well were Joanne Parsons, Dale Parsons, Don Watson, and Julie Jenkins.

Minutes from the August meeting were accepted, Don moved Joanne seconded.

John Marsilio, Director of Public Works, spoke about single stream recycling being implemented in Trumbull. For every ton of recyclables brought to Stratford, Trumbull receives \$10 - \$15. Solid waste costs Trumbull nearly \$100 per ton in tipping fees. He would like to see an expansion of recycling in Trumbull. Single stream includes everything except organics and items like batteries, etc. Hartford and Bridgeport currently use single stream recycling. The town contract ends in June, 2011 with our present recycling system. A building in Shelton exists for single stream, but has no contracts at the present time. Mr. Marsilio did not know what would happen to the cost of recycling per ton if single stream was initiated. DEP does not seem to be very interested in implementing it and 32 permits to allow it are languishing at the DEP. He would like us to help getting DEP to approve the permits, but he wants to wait until the election to see if there are any changes in DEP leadership. He recommends asking our legislators to help aid in this. Don would like to continue watching this issue and bring it up at future meetings. Mr. Marsilio will schedule a tour of the transfer station, burn plant, recycling facility, and proposed Shelton single stream recycling facility. Mr. Marsilio left at 7:38.

Kerry Karlson, Bryce Bollert (President), Kristen Faivre (sec), and Robert Metz from Thrushwood Association spoke about the lake. Thrushwood Lake is a 4-5 acre lake used for recreation and Trumbull storm drainage. A DEP report a few years ago requested/demanded some changes in the lake. The big issue facing the association is whether the dam will withstand a 100 year flood. They hired Fuss and O'Neill to prepare a report on the dam. Fuss and O'Neill concurred with the DEP report and said the dam needs to be raised. Thrushwood Association would like help from Trumbull commissions. Don asked if there has been any legal opinion made about the liability of the Association. Don suggested an attorney be hired to protect the members. The dam is a Class B dam and is in good shape but needs some spillway repairs. None of the members has ever seen the water in the lake come close to the top of the dam, even during periods of very heavy rain. Don suggested finding out dates and rain fall amounts of Trumbull flooding. FEMA also might have this data. This could help change the DEP requirements of Thrushwood. Don also mentioned plantings around the lake to help slow down the flow. Mary Ellen mentioned that Southwest Conservation Commission might be able to help. Don suggested working together to buy insurance to help cut costs. There is a private owner for part of the dam, and this owner is in foreclosure, so it is bank owned. Old papers show that when the Parker Dairy land was developed, this increased the lake volume by up to 30% during heavy rain. Dale suggested getting a second opinion from a smaller engineering company that could save them money.

Peter McKnight, President of Friends of Remington Woods gave a presentation about Remington Woods. There are currently a couple of choices for the future of the property: office complex, open space (recreation). 75 acres of the site are in Stratford. An office complex would cost money to improve the roadway; there are other brownfield sites which could be used instead, and existing abandoned facilities that could be used. Remediation of site is a responsibility of Dupont and US Government. There will be a bus tour by Dupont of the woods on November 17 from 9:00 until 3:00 on the hour leaving from the Asylum Street gate. There will be a walking tour of the perimeter on November 13. Mary Ellen said there is such a high vacancy rate currently, there doesn't seem to be a need for added office space. Remington Woods is a 419 acre property in the middle of Bridgeport. Lake Success in the middle of the property is a man made lake about 100 years old. The municipal leadership in Bridgeport and Stratford have proposed developing it for an office park. Peter said they have tried to spread the word about the property. It is about 1/3 wetlands and Peter did not know the appraised value.

Thrushwood Lake Association members left at 8:45.

Chris Kryder from Save the Sound spoke about the Pequonnock River Initiative. The initiative is to provide plans to protect water quality, the water habitat, and the enjoyment of the river. One of Trumbull's issues with the river is flooding as well as quality to provide fishing for residents. Chris said the initiative is awaiting the latest report about the Pequonnock River. Don would like to match pictures of specific areas along the river with the report. November 6, 2010 will be a river clean up starting behind Poricelli's. Chris left at 9:05.

Don reported on Trumbull Library's desire to extend the parking lot on the east side of the building. Don and Dale proposed minimizing the expansion to preserve trees and provide drainage. Jim Cebulski accepted their plan to present to the Library Board. Don had not heard anything about the plan moving forward with the Board. Two weeks ago Don met with Jim Cebulski about the adopted plan which did not preserve the trees nor provide the drainage they asked for. Joanne suggested we attend the next Library Board meeting and present our concerns about the parking lot.

Joanne and Dale presented a copy of a proposed New Canaan's Tree Protection and Preservation Regulation. They feel it is a very thorough ordinance. This would have to go through Planning and Zoning for approval. Ridgefield has two policies, one for public trees and another for private trees. Don thinks we should support an ordinance of some type. Joanne said so many towns have tree/landscape ordinances and we should strongly support adopting one.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Jenkins