

## **Trumbull Conservation Commission Minutes**

Thursday February 17, 2011

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:00pm.

In attendance were Mary Ellen Lemay, Chair, Dale Parsons, Don Watson, Jim Sullivan (guest)

### **Review of Minutes**

Minutes of the last meeting of the Commission October 2010 minutes were approved as posted on the web. Dale moved, Don seconded.

### **Single Stream Recycling**

Mary Ellen gave a report of a December field trip organized by John Marsilio, Director of Public Works, attended by Mary Ellen, John and Don. They visited local garbage and waste management facilities including the CRRRA/RESCO burn plant, the CRRRA recycling facility in Stratford and adjacent Garbage Museum, and a single-stream recycling facility near Bridgeport Avenue in Shelton. This last facility is pending DEP permit approval to operate as a single-stream recycling facility. It currently accepts limited commercial waste from Trumbull Mall and local construction sites where most material is sorted, bailed and sold as resources. If approved for enlarged single-stream recycling, it will be available to Town of Trumbull to introduce single-stream recycling in Trumbull (to shift from present 20% recycling to 80% recycling). John Marsilio has asked the Conservation Commission to include recycling in its purview because recycling supports conservation, especially to address issues of education.

Mary Ellen, along with John Marsilio, also attended a January 25 meeting set up by State Representative T.R. Rowe with DEP officials in Hartford (DEP Commission) to present the case for single-stream recycling.

### **GIS (Graphic Information System)**

Mary Ellen and Don updated the Commission on GIS, now in its second year of consultant work to establish a GIS platform for the Town of Trumbull. An aerial photography / flyover and mapping has been completed. The implementation currently being planned will include availability of the new GIS system to all town offices and commissions, including training and public web access. Don stated that once the GIS system is in place, the Conservation Commission will be able to utilize its capacity to advance the Commission's assigned tasks of Open Space Inventory and related recommendations to improve conservation values within the town. The next meeting of GIS Study Group is scheduled for Monday, February 28 12:30pm Long Hill Room.

### **Pequonnock River Initiative (PRI) draft report**

Mary Ellen and Don updated the Commission on the Pequonnock River Initiative. The initiative involves joint planning of behalf of Bridgeport, Trumbull and Monroe to create a Watershed Management Plan of the Pequonnock River. Fuss & O'Neill, consultants to the project, are completing engineering studies and the Plan Report to be submitted to CT DEP for State approval. Such approval will qualify the Towns for grants in support of the recommendations of the plan. DW distributed an information sheet presenting details of current projects being considered by the PRI Steering Committee for inclusion in recommendations and project funding opportunities. The next meeting of the PRI Steering Committee, open to the public, is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22 at 8:30am Monroe Town Hall.

### **Streamflow regulations**

Mary Ellen gave a brief update that the prior State regulation that was propped for Streamflow Regulation was rejected. No updates are available, but the item will remain of interest to the Conservation Commission, which had supported the Regulations.

#### **Library parking landscape project update**

Don gave brief update of plans to enlarge parking at the Library, which involves removal of up to 20 trees, some 24 in. or more in diam. He explained that the Conservation Commission with assistance of Dale Parsons and others on the Commission have proposed ways to preserve some trees, while planting others to demonstrate Low Impact Development (LID) best practices to combine planting and bioretention of stormwater run-off. The Commission remains in contact with municipal officials who will be implementing the plans (Theo Samadjopoulos, Dmitri Paris and Jim Cebulski, past-Chair of the Library Board). The project is highly constrained by budget and will be constructed by town forces after trees are cut (by subcontract being managed by the Library Board). Don stated that the LID portion of the project could possibly be supported by grants sought through the Pequonnock River Initiative (PRI), but such funding is uncertain and in any case would not be available in 2011.

Concern about the number of trees being removed and related issues of aesthetics and stormwater engineering were expressed by Jim Sullivan. Don explained that he continues to argue the case for tree preservation and restoration with Theo and Dmitri. Mary Ellen stated, and others concurred, that the project remains of sufficient concern as to impact on environment and town aesthetics to require continued high-level attention of the Selectman's office.

#### **Old Mine Park restoration**

Mary Ellen and Don reported that the plan advanced by Don, with Dale and Joanne Parsons, to install a demonstration riveredge planting buffer has been endorsed by the Parks Commission and will be submitted for grant funding from a private foundation. This is also a project in support of the Pequonnock River Initiative Watershed Management Plan.

#### **IWWC applications/activities**

No applications were presented. As an improvement of Conservation Commission procedures, it was suggested that Joanne and Dale Parsons serve as a Commission sub-group to receive and analyze future IWWC submittals prior to the regular Conservation Commission meetings, in order to present a summary and set of recommendations for full Committee action, if any is appropriate.

#### **Landscape Preservation Ordinance.**

The Commission has previously discussed this agenda item. The attachment below was presented to the Pequonnock River Initiative by Trumbull resident Bill Pisani (a retired Code Compliance Official of White Plains). Mary Ellen will bring up the topic for discussion with John Marsilio, seeking guidance of how best to advance the proposal for Town consideration.

#### **Budget for Conservation Commission**

Mary Ellen proposed a Commission Budget for 2011 of \$2,000 request, to include \$1,500 for the Town's fee to the Southeast Conservation District (for continued on-call consulting services related to environmental/conservation issues) and \$500 for continuing education (to support Commission membership dues and Conservation Commission members attendance at key meetings such as CACIWC (Connecticut Assoc. of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions) [www.caciwc.org](http://www.caciwc.org) and Connecticut Rivers Alliance [www.riversalliance.org](http://www.riversalliance.org)

#### **Review of 2010/plans for 2011**

Don asked if the Trumbull Charter Commission has taken up the prior proposal to join the Conservation Commission with IWCC. Mary Ellen reported that no further discussion has occurred.

The Conservation Commission presently needs a recorder. (Julie Jenkins, who served as both Commission member and recorder for the past two years stepped down from the Commission at the conclusion of her term in December). Mary Ellen will inquire as to costs and availability of a recorder.

Discussion of increasing Conservation Commission membership will continue pending outcomes of above initiatives such as recycling.

### **New Business**

Jim Sullivan cell 203 455-8337 introduced himself and described his background in environmental management for EPA and Pepsi Cola. He expressed interest and willingness to serve as an appointed member of the Commission, which the Commission heartily accepted. Chair Mary Ellen Lemay will present the nomination to the First Selectman's office.

Meeting adjourn 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Watson (recorder)

Attachment A

### **Excerpt from Pequonnock River Initiative Minutes (January 25, 2011)**

#### **Tree Ordinance for entire watershed.**

This proposal is to seek approval and implementation of a Tree Ordinance. A model, submitted by Trumbull resident Bill Pisani, is attached below. Bill Levin, Trumbull Town Planner noted that the current practices in Trumbull are to remove any trees that are considered a safety, traffic or construction obstruction and that this proposal requires consultation with Trumbull's Tree Warden, along with related Town Commissions.

**ATTACHMENT** (submitted by Bill Pisani, Trumbull)

#### **DRAFT** Tree Preservation Ordinance

The wording is proposed for discussion and may be amended following best practices. Similar Connecticut Tree Ordinances will be identified as further reference.

*The intent of this Tree Ordinance is to protect the critical watersheds of our town, to maintain and improve flood control and environmental protections provided by trees and to preserve trees within 100 feet of riverine and wetland areas (streams, rivers, ponds, wetlands). Trees provide many services in flood management, absorbing water, carbon and pollutants, providing stable soil and control erosion, shade and habitat.*

*The ordinance does not prevent tree removal. It establishes a due diligence consideration of tree removal to assure protection of life safety, health and environmental values.*

*Section 1. No tree, greater than \_\_\_\_ inches in caliper (measured one foot above grade) and located within one hundred (100) feet of a river, stream, lake or wetland shall be removed without first obtaining a Special Permit issued by the \_\_\_\_\_ [Tree Warden or Conservation Commission or other?] following public notice, mailings to surrounding property owners and public hearing, as would be required for filing notice of zoning variances.*

*Section 2.* Removal of diseased or dangerous trees or limbs, as may pose an immanent hazard, shall be permitted upon written certification, such as by a Connecticut Licensed Arborist, and submission to the Department of Building for an expedited permit.

*Section 3.* No building permit for any proposed development or construction within said One Hundred foot setback shall be issued until a Tree Preservation Plan has been submitted to and approved by [Tree Warden or Conservation Commission or other?]. Such plan shall show all existing trees on the site and alternate designs to avoid removal of trees more than four (4) inches in caliper (measured one foot above grade). Tree restoration shall be required where no viable design options exist to avoid such tree removals.