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TOWN OF VERNON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012
7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3RD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE
ROCKVILLE/VERNON, CT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Ouellette, Russell Kunz, Ryan Goad (alternate)
(Scott Wieting not present).

STAFF PRESENT: Shaun Gately

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 PM by Thomas Ouellette.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

A. Acceptance of Minutes of February 13, 2012.

Motion was made by Russell Kunz to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting.
Second to motion was made by Ryan Goad. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Communications

None

C. Application related Correspondences: IWC & PZC applications:

PZC – approved to extend the Loom City Project (Roosevelt Mill Site) an additional 6 months for funding development.

PZC – Application pending for 333 Talcottville Road – Hartford Realty Corp convenience store and gas station.

D. Letters sent by Conservation Commission last month.

Eight letters were sent to property owners that abut two town parcels requesting access by Wetland and Soil Scientist, Mr. Ed Pawlak of Connecticut Ecosystems, LLC, for inspection to identify the presence of vernal pools.

3. PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION

No Action

4. LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID) GRANT

The PZC will conduct a meeting on April 9, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. LID will be an agenda item to raise questions and recommendations. Shaun Gately will advise the Commission if this will be a Public Hearing.

5. AQUATIC INVASIVES

Thomas Ouellette spoke to George Knocklein who suggested transplanting plants from West Walker Reservoir to East Walker Reservoir as an experimental project and suction dredging to remove plants that return instead of using chemicals.

Tom will seek Mr. Knocklein's recommendation regarding the use of volunteers for inspection of the Hockanum below Dart Hill and Windsorville Roads. Tom will verify if Papermill Pond is feasible for inspection.

6. SCENIC ROADS

Russ Kunz offered to escort Public Works staff to identify the best placement locations for signs. Shaun Gately will have someone contact Russ.

7. WEB SITE, EDUCATION & PUBLIC OUTREACH

Mr. Kunz will submit a nomination for the 2012 Aquarion Environmental Champion Award for Nancy Strong. He will note Nancy's contributions and have Nancy review.

Thomas Ouellette would like to submit a nomination for the Conservation Commission as a whole. Mr. Ouellette has drafted an essay regarding Invasives Project and will circulate a draft among the commission members for viewing. Members will prepare drafts for review by April 6, 2012, revised drafts by April 13, 2012 and discussion on April 16, 2012.

Mr. Ouellette will contact Mr. Parlee of Bolton to coordinate a date to blaze the Tulip Tree Trail and also speak to Scott Wieting on his availability.

8. TALCOTTVILLE MILL PROGRESS ON WETLANDS REMEDIATION

No Action.

9. OPEN SPACE PROCESS/ZONE

Scott Wieting attended a meeting with Northern CT Land Trust. Scott emailed Len Tundermann with the following questions and concerns that will need to be addressed by the Commission:

1. Will the overlay zone go over the existing zone or a zone by itself and are these the only regulations that apply to the property if it is rezoned?
2. A definition of "recreational" must be defined. (RV's, ATV's)
3. Are they allowed to be more restrictive than the zone in regards to what they allow on their properties?
4. Gail Faherty felt a sentence in Section 4.26.2 be removed. "Under no circumstances shall a use or activity ensue on the parcel of land within this zone which is contrary and/or detrimental to the intent and purpose of open space."

10. VERNAL POOLS

Eight letters were sent to property owners that abut town properties requesting permission to cross their properties to inspect the presence of vernal pools. Responses by property owners were requested by March 30, 2012.

11. TANKERHOUSEN WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

No Action.

12. OTHER GOALS

Trails Day is June 4, 2012. Thomas Ouellette will act to publish information in local newspapers.

CACIWC will be making a Powerpoint presentation for Conservation Commissions to expand education. The Environmental 911 pamphlet can be viewed and downloaded from www.caciwc.org.

The Connecticut Land Trust will hold a conference on Saturday, March 24, 2012. Thomas Ouellette will speak about the gorge and discuss the long collaborative history with Ct Land Trust.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Russell Kunz to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Second to motion was made by Ryan Goad. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Blanche Perillo

NOT ORIGINAL SIGNATURE

Blanche Perillo, Recording Secretary