

Town clerk

Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes 1-14-2013 1/4

Town of Vernon
Conservation Commission Meeting
Minutes - Regular Meeting
Monday, January 14, 2013, 7:00 P.M.
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, 14 Park Place
Rockville/Vernon, CT

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
13 FEB -4 PM 3:41

1. Call to Order & roll call

- ◆ Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.
- ◆ Regular Members Present: Thomas Ouellette, C. Ryan Goad, Julie Clay and H. Russell Kunz.
- ◆ Alternate Members Present: None
- ◆ Staff Present: Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator
- ◆ Recording Secretary: James Krupienski

2. Administrative Actions

A. Election of Officers

◆ Chairman

- C. Ryan Goad nominated Thomas Ouellette as Chairman. Mr. Ouellette accepted the nomination.
- No other nominations. Nominations were closed for Chairman.

◆ Vice-Chairman

- Thomas Ouelette nominated C. Ryan Goad as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Goad accepted the nomination.
- No other nominations. Nominations were closed for Chairman.

B. Acceptance of Minutes of December 17, 2012

- ◆ Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of December 17, 2012 moved to the February 11, 2013.

C. Communications

- ◆ C. Ryan Goad indicated supplied commission listing indicated Alternate status, and has been a regular member from previous Town Council action.

D. Application related Correspondences: IWC & PZC applications:

- ◆ Notice from CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC) for supporting member status.
 - Shaun Gately indicated that funding may be available in the Planning budget.
- ◆ Upcoming IWC continued hearing on January 22, 2013 for 60 South Frontage Road for a Wetlands violation and invitation to attend the meeting.
 - Can refer to prior Environmental Review Reports during the discussion.
 - C. Ryan Goad indicated that he could attend the meeting.
- ◆ Discussion took pace on possible impacted species in the wetlands.

E. Letters sent by Conservation Commission last month

- ◆ None

3. Plan of Conservation & Development

- ◆ **Thomas Ouellette reviewed the State Plan update.**
 - **Conservation Commission had reviewed the State Plan and submitted suggested changes through the Office of the Town Planner.**
 - **Comments have been received back from State OPM regarding suggested changes.**
 - **Three Points regarding “Protected Open Space Areas”**
 - **Number of water resource areas that were identified as both protected open space and priority conservation areas.**
 - **Protected Open Space has a higher value.**
 - **Water resources did not have the ability to be developed.**
 - **Should be removed from priority conservation area list and identified as protected Open Space. (Tankerhoosen River, Tankerhoosen Lakes, Hockanum River, Walker Reservoir, Risley Reservoir and Bolton Lakes.)**
 - **OPM concurred with the recommendations.**
 - **Other Land areas that were identified as both Protected Open Space and Priority Conservation areas.**
 - **Recommended change to Protected Open Space.**
 - **OPM agreed with the requested change. (Valley Falls Park, Manchester Land Trust Properties around Risley Reservoir.)**
 - **Areas on TOV Plan that have since adoption become Open Space.**
 - **Talcottville Ravine/Gorge purchased by the Northern CT Land Trust.**
 - **Tankerhoosen Wildlife Management Area purchased by the State of Connecticut.**
 - **Gunther Property in the process of acquiring adjacent to the Tolland Agricultural Center.**
 - **Grove Hill Cemetery & St. Bernard’s Cemetery.**
 - **OPM concurred and added Talcottville Ravine and Tankerhoosen Wildlife area to their mapping.**
 - **Legislative hearing will be held for additional commenting.**

4. Low Impact Development (LID)

- ◆ **Ann Letendre indicated that the Planning and Zoning Commission LID Subcommittee had accepted the proposed LID regulations. It is expected to schedule a Public Hearing in late February or March for review.**
 - **Town Engineer, Terry McCarthy has created a checklist for use with each application to review LID techniques.**

5. Aquatic Invasives.

- ◆ **Thomas Ouellette indicated that a meeting is being held on January 22, 2013 regarding Middle Bolton Lake and possible actions.**
 - **Discussion to take place regarding problem with invasive species in Lower Bolton Lake.**
 - **Bruce Dinnie will supply information to Lake Residents.**
 - **Meeting will take place on January 29, 2013 to Support the Friends of Bolton Lakes to develop and joint management plan for the lakes.**
 - **Recommendation to reduce pollution around the lakes.**
 - **Meeting will take place in March to address Milfoil in Walker Reservoir and Papermill Pond**

6. Scenic Roads

- ◆ **None**

7. Web site, education & public outreach

- ◆ Thomas Ouellette requested a Bio for Julie Clay for placement on the Commission webpage.
- ◆ Removal of Scott Wieting's Bio needs to be completed.
- ◆ C. Ryan Goad indicated he would work on updating the Commission Facebook® page.
- ◆ Friends of the Hockanum River Linear Park (FHRLP) received funding for placement of signage at the Vernon Water Pollution Treatment Plant.
- ◆ Holistic Health Fair will be held on the 1st weekend in April and the Vernon Center Middle School.
 - Flyers, surveys completed.
- ◆ Earth Day Program
- ◆ Aquatic Invasive Surveys – July & August 2013
- ◆ October – River Survey
- ◆ Speaker Forum for Commissioners & Public
 - NEMO
 - CLEAR
 - DEEP – various agencies
 - CACIWIC – Resume Inventory & Wildlife assessment
- ◆ Earth Day Program could begin the Speakers Forum
- ◆ Upcoming Conferences:
 - CACIWIC – Annual Meeting in November
 - CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC) – March Meeting
- ◆ Commissioners can prepare to discuss possible leadership roles during the February meeting.

8. Talcottville Mill Progress on Wetlands Remediation

- ◆ No Updates

9. Open Space Process/Zone

- ◆ Zoning map will be revised to show newly adopted properties.
- ◆ H. Russel Kunz reviewed the process of creating a nonprofit for the Strong Farm.
 - Scarecrow Contest completed.
 - Farm cleanup day was held.
- ◆ Gunther Property acquisition.
 - State has supplied Open Space funds.
 - Commission should review the Environmental Review Team Report (ERT)

10. Vernal Pools

- ◆ Ralph Zahner is looking into utilizing a possible ROW on Bamforth Road for access to Town Property and review of possible vernal pools.
- ◆ Thomas Ouellette will contact the Condominium Association to determine necessary clauses for the requested Hold Harmless Agreement for property access.

11. Tankerhoosen Watershed Implementation Plan

- ◆ No updates

12. Other goals

- ◆ Environmental Review Team report still in progress for Bolton Lakes.
 - Waiting on Team member for additional information.
 - Expects completion by February meeting.

13. Adjournment

- ◆ **Thomas Ouellette, seconded by Julie Clay moved a Motion to Adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.**
- ◆ **Meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M.**

**James Krupienski
Recording Secretary**