

Town Clerk

**Town of Vernon
Conservation Commission
Minutes - Regular Meeting
Monday, August 19, 2013, 7:00 P.M.
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, 14 Park Place
Rockville/Vernon, CT**

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
13 OCT -7 PM 2:35

1. Call to Order & roll call

- ◆ **Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.**
- ◆ **Regular Members Present:** Thomas Ouellette, C. Ryan Goad, Logan Senack, H. Russell Kunz and Melissa Kracke.
- ◆ **Alternate Members Present:** None
- ◆ **Staff Present:** Leonard Tundermann, Town Planner
- ◆ **Recording Secretary:** James Krupienski and Peggy Jackle

2. Administrative Actions

A Acceptance of Minutes of July 22, 2013

- ◆ **C Ryan Goad, seconded by H Russell Kunz moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2013 as amended.**
 - Page 2, 1st Bullet 2E – To Read **“Thomas Ouellette requested change to the Agenda for future meetings, Item 3B, “Friends of Bolton Lakes” to “Bolton Lakes Issues”**
 - Page 2, 6th Bullet 3A – To Read **“Permits have been received for Paper Mill Pond and Walker Reservoir East:**
 - Page 2, 7th Bullet 3A – To Read **“Milfoil and fanwort have returned in Paper Mill Pond.”**
 - Page 3, 3rd Bullet 3H – To Read **“Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District – Jane Brawermann.”**
 - Page 3, 4th Bullet 3H – To Read **“Need to appoint an organizer.”**
 - Page 3, 11th Bullet 3H – To Read **“Location – Golfland, Tunnel Road, Gages Brook and two (2) additional site.”**
 - Page 3, 12th Bullet 3H – To Read **“Supplies needed – Ethanol, waders, snacks and drinks.”**
 - Page 3, 13th Bullet 3H – To Read **“Training session will be held at the Tolland County Agricultural Building (TAC) prior to the assessment.”**
 - Page 3, 16th Bullet 3H – To Read **“Thomas Ouellette will contact Jane Brawermann”**
 - Page 3, 19th Bullet 3H – To Read **“Additional information will follow by email.”**
- ◆ **Motion carried unanimously.**

B Communications

- ◆ **Conservation Commission Membership listing**
- ◆ **Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc. (CACIWC) membership renewal notice.**
- ◆ **Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc. (CACIWC) membership-wide survey information dated July 30, 2013.**
- ◆ **Thomas Ouellette supplied Connecticut Land Conservation Council Membership memo to the commission.**

- ◆ **Thomas Ouellette requested the commission move the Tree Warden discussion Item 3A prior to Item 2C. Commissioners accepted.**

3. Continuing Business

A Tree Warden duties - Jeff Schamback, invited guest

- ◆ **Has handled the duties of Tree Warden since 2004**
 - **Town must have a Tree Warden who must be certified or an Arborist.**
 - **Completion of 15 Credit hours over a three year period is required.**
 - **Controls removal and care of trees within the Municipal Right-of-Way.**
 - **Has authority to remove signage from trees and poles under the municipal jurisdiction.**
 - **Has no jurisdiction on State roadways or highways.**
 - **Reviews trees for risk assessment and determination of municipal right-of way.**
 - **Low impact trees are posted for ten (10) days and a hearing is held for the public to be heard.**
 - **Private trees will receive a letter relative to the hazard that the tree possesses.**
 - **Will meet with private contractors for tree impact at contractor sites.**
 - **Reviews foreclosed properties for impacted line of sight.**
 - **Cease and Decist Order will be issued for removal of trees within the municipal right-of-way.**
 - **Meets with Utilities for Annual line pruning.**

2. Administrative Actions (Continued)

C Application related Correspondences: IWC & PZC applications:

Application (IWC-2013-05) of Andre Charbonneau for a wetlands permit to construct a single family dwelling and install a culvert for a driveway crossing of a wetland on property at 133 Washington Street (Assessor's ID: Map # 11, Block # 0155, Lot/Parcel 09A10 & #01B24).

- ◆ **Thomas Ouellette reviewed the proposed mapping for the project and Town GIS information regarding wetlands areas.**
- ◆ **Thomas Ouellette indicated that he would supply draft comments by email to the commission members to review.**
 - **Concerned with uncompleted map not showing the brook on the site.**
 - **Commission requested Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) review for the site.**
 - **Mature trees should be protected for removal, if possible.**
 - **Brook is a wildlife corridor.**

Application (IWC-2013-06) of Gerald Fournier for a wetlands permit to install a ground mounted solar array at 24 Indian Trail (Assessor's ID: Map #55, Block #137, Lot/Parcel #4E)

- ◆ **Commission review suggested the applicant contact the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) review of the site.**
- ◆ **Suggested wetlands delineation be placed on the application mapping for the application.**

Application (PZ-2013-14) of Hafiza Naheed for approval of a Special Permit and a site plan of development to convert an existing building to multifamily dwelling and construct a new building for multifamily dwellings on property at #25 Terrace Drive (Assessor's ID: Map #07, Block # 0037, Lot/Parcel #6044C)

◆ **No discussion held**

Application (PZ-2013-13) of Olender Family Partnership for approval of a special permit to remove 500 cu. yd. of soil from property at 704 Talcottville Road (Assessor's ID: Map #07, Block #0025, Lot/Parcel#00014)

◆ **No Discussion held**

D Letters sent by Conservation Commission last month

◆ **None**

E Organizational considerations

3. Continuing Business

A Tree Warden duties - Jeff Schamback, invited guest

◆ **Discussion took place prior to Item 2C**

B Invasive Aquatic Plant Survey

a Lakes management

◆ **George Knoecklein has identified variable leaf milfoil and fanwort within Walker Reservoir.**

- **Millfoil has returned in Valley Falls Pond.**
- **Fanwort has been indentified in Tankerhoosen Pond.**
- **Water chestnut has been identified in Dobsonville Pond.**
- **Curly leaf pond weed has been indentified in Talcotville Pond.**
- **Walker Reservoir and Paper Mill Pond were treated with an herbicide on August 6, 2013.**

b Tankerhoosen River survey

◆ **Taking place on August 24, 2013 from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM.**

- **Training will take place at Valley Falls Barn from 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM**
- **River Walk will review the river water quality and possible invasive species.**

c Didymo signage

- ◆ **H. Russell Kunz indicated that he contacted the State for signage for posting.**
- ◆ **Leonard Tundermann, Town Planner indicated that he would have the received signage laminated for placement near streams.**

C Bolton Lakes Issues

- ◆ **DEEP Fisheries Report was received and distributed to the commissioners by email.**
 - **Catfish were not determined to be the cause of problems.**
- ◆ **Public Meeting will take place on August 29, 2013 at the Bolton Town Hall.**

D Bolton Lakes ERT Report

- ◆ **No update on when the report will be completed.**
 - **Waiting on Chapter Reports.**

E Open Space Program

- ◆ **Were hoping to acquire the Gunther Property through a Farmland Protection Grant from the Connecticut Farmland Trust but did not come through.**
 - **Have begun fund raising and would need to raise \$150,000**

F Intertown Collaboration

- ◆ **Logan Senack indicated that he was waiting for the Manchester Town Staff to contact the commission.**

G Website Revision

- ◆ **Waiting on the Town IT Staff and Town Administration to review and implement requested commission changes.**

H Rapid Bioassessment (RBV)

- ◆ **Program will take place on September 28, 2013 for the Friends of Hockanum River Linear Park Commission.**
 - **Local colleges have been contacted for possible volunteers.**

4. New Business

A UConn/CT Water Co. Diversion

- ◆ **Current public comment process has closed.**
 - **Concerns with possible reduction in flow to the Hockanum River.**
 - **Any approved water withdrawal will be controlled by the Stream Flow legislation.**
 - **Diversion Permit will be required by DEEP prior to any changes from the requisite watershed areas.**

5. Other Goals

- ◆ **Discussion took place relative to the transformer oil spill and PCB's lead at the Amerbelle building.**
 - **Some impact from storm drain into the river.**
 - **Concentrations have been reduced through excavation.**
 - **Additional testing will take place within the waterways.**
- ◆ **Tulip Trail needs some trail maintenance.**
 - **Conditions were good.**
 - **Blazes were in good shape.**
 - **October 26, 2013 the Appalachian Mountain Club will hold another trail hike.**
 - **Bayberry bramble needs to be removed for easier access.**
- ◆ **Thomas Ouellette suggested contacting Bolton for a possible Joint Trail cleanup day.**

6. Adjournment

- ◆ **H. Russell Kunz, seconded by Logan Senack moved to Adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.**
- ◆ **Meeting adjourned at 8:58 P.M.**

James Krupienski

Recording Secretary