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Town of Vernon
Conservation Commission Meeting
Monday, September 15, 2014
7:00 PM
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, 14 Park Place
Rockville/Vernon, CT

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Chairman Tom Ouellette. Present was Commissioner C. Ryan Goad and Town Planner Brianan Nolan.

2. Administrative Actions

A. Acceptance of minutes of July 21, 2014 meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Goad and seconded by Commissioner Ouellette to accept the minutes of July 21, 2014 as previously revised. Motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of minutes of June 17, 2014 special meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Goad and seconded by Commissioner Ouellette to accept the minutes of June 17, 2014 as previously revised. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Communications received

Letter of resignation of former Commissioner Logan Senack, dated August 21, 2014.

C. Application related correspondence: IWC and PZC applications.

None.

D. Letters sent by Conservation Commission last month.

None.

E. Organizational considerations.

At Commissioner Ouellette's request, it was agreed to postpone the scheduled October 20, 2014 Commission meeting until October 27, 2014.

3. Continuing Business

A. Invasive aquatic plants & lakes management

Commissioner Ouellette reported on the treatment of Vernon lakes to eliminate invasive aquatic plants, noting that members of the Friends of Bolton Lakes observed a resulting rapid decline in the prior abundance there of variable-leaf milfoil. He also reported that a subsequent blue-green algae bloom at Middle Bolton Lake necessitated the temporary posting by the North Central District Health Department of notices cautioning avoidance of contact with accumulations of algae.

B. Bolton Lakes issues

- ERT Report: discussion of recommendations
- Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance (BLWCA)
- Friends of Bolton Lakes activities (FBL)
- Other activities

Referencing jointly the discussion items listed above, Commissioner Ouellette reported that a subcommittee consisting of Conservation Commission members will review, and report to the entirety of the BLWCA on, ERT Report recommendations for their further consideration.

Ouellette reported that a walk was led by members of Joshua's Trust on a conservation easement located on property in Tolland on Upper Bolton Lake and proximal to a noted stand of Atlantic white cedar. The walk focused on the natural history of the site.

Ouellette distributed invitations to and discussed the first **Annual Bolton Lakes Watershed Community Forum for the towns of Vernon, Tolland, Coventry and Bolton**, scheduled for October 14, 2014, 7:00 PM at Newhoca Lodge. The meeting will be led by BLWCA and FBL. Speakers will discuss watershed assessment, land conservation activities, lake water testing, treatment and water level management, progress in sewerage in the watershed, and plans for future lake and surrounding watershed activities.

Ouellette distributed notice of a lecture on October 16, 2014 in Coventry by Robert Kortmann, president of Ecosystem Consulting Service, on his investigations of conditions in Coventry Lake, noting the potential relevance to lakes in Vernon.

C. Open Space Program

Commissioner Ouellette reported that the Open Space Task Force is continuing to explore options for purchase of Strong Farm property, to be transferred in the future to the Northern Connecticut Land Trust.

D. Intertown collaboration: planning for Speakers Forum

Commissioner Ouellette reported no further discussion with the Manchester Conservation Commission on this item.

4. New Business

None.

5. Other Goals

Commissioner Goad reported that he will finalize and circulate for review the required annual report to CT DEEP on the condition of the Tulip Tree Trail.

Commissioner Ouellette reported that the River Bioassessment by Volunteers (RBV) scheduled for October 4, 2014 may be postponed due to low flow conditions in the Tankerhoosen River and its tributaries.

6. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Goad and seconded by Commissioner Ouellette to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Ouellette
September 17, 2014*