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CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012
7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3rd FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE
ROCKVILLE/VERNON, CT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Wieting, Ryan Goad, H. Russell Kunz, Thomas Ouellette

STAFF PRESENT: Shaun Gately

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Scott Wieting.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

A. Acceptance of Minutes of January 23, 2012:

For item PZ-2012-02, change natural diversity "area" to "database"; for agenda item #9 corrected spelling "precess" to "process."

Motion to accept minutes as amended by Thomas Ouellette. Second to motion was made by Russell Kunz. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Communications:

The latest issue of "The Habitat" contains a front page article by Thomas Ouellette describing efforts to identify and control aquatic invasive species within the Tankerhoosen watershed.

The Commission received a package from Aquarion Water Company advertising their 2012 Aquarion Environmental Champion Awards and requesting nominations for the same. The award includes grants of \$2,500 to adult, business, and non-profit organizations to the environmental non-profit organization of the awardee's choice, and the student category provides an award of a \$1,000 savings bond.

Russell Kunz suggested nomination of Thomas Ouellette in the adult, business, and non-profit category for his work to identify, remove, and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species within the Tankerhoosen River watershed. Scott Wieting seconded the motion. Mr. Ouellette suggested use of the \$2,500 grant money, if received, to support annual volunteer training and to investigate additional survey work to support volunteer efforts (e.g., equipment purchase). Mr. Wieting suggested putting an application together for Mr. Ouellette's work the March 2012 meeting. Mr. Gately suggested submitting multiple nominations.

Mr. Kunz informed the commission that Nancy Strong is in the early stages of forming a non-profit foundation for preserving the Strong Farm property on West Street (abutting the Center Road School/EMS/Police Station property). Mr. Kunz suggested efforts to save this important natural resource/open space property could be worthy of nomination for the Environmental Champion Awards. The Commission also discussed involving local schools, particularly Rockville High School vocational/agricultural program, in preservation of the farm parcel.

The Commission discussed additional nominations including the Hockanum River Linear Park Committee for leading LID regulation development efforts, greenway volunteers, and this Commission for vernal pool identification.

The Commission decided to submit applications for aquatic invasives, LID, and Strong Farm preservation. Members will prepare drafts for review at the March meeting. Nomination applications are due May 1, 2012.

Mr. Kunz departed the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

C. Application Related Correspondences: IWC & PZC Applications:

Thomas Scranton/Scranton Motors application (**PZ-2012-02**) goes before PZC February 16, 2012. No new applications for the Commission's review at this meeting.

D. Letters Sent by Conservation Commission Last Month

IWC-2012-01: Mr. Ouellette submitted a letter to IWC via the Town Planner outlining this Commission's concerns about potential impacts to existing drainage and water quality as a result of planned drainage improvements along Mount Vernon Drive (at 1116 Hartford Turnpike).

IWC-2012-02: Mr. Goad submitted a letter to IWC via the Town Planner outlining this Commission's concerns about the potential for slope erosion at 103 Jonathan Drive and outlining suggested practices to limit soil erosion potential. We also suggested measures to minimize the impact of lawn fertilizers and herbicides in the brook.

PZ-2012-02: Mr. Goad submitted a letter to PZC via the Town Planner identifying the majority of the Scranton Motors parcel at 777 Talcottville Road as within Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) Area and suggesting it be PZC's discretion whether or not they require Scranton Motors submit a NDDB review request to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) since that property has been an active automobile dealership and service center for many years.

3. PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION

No action

4. LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID) GRANT

Material Set 3 is available for review at Fuss & O'Neill's ftp site. The next meeting has not been scheduled.

5. AQUATIC INVASIVES

Mr. Ouellette published the lead article in The Habitat (see Item 2.B.).

Mr. George Knocklein will publish survey results in March. He will also survey Papermill Pond and two other ponds. Mr. Ouellette contacted Mr. Knocklein regarding suction harvesting of Walker Reservoir East and transplanting of native plants from Walker Reservoir West to Walker Reservoir East to reduce turbidity. Mr. Ouellette is awaiting a response. Mr. Bruce Dinnie is preparing a budget for this year's survey and treatment.

6. SCENIC ROADS

Mr. Gately requested suggested placement locations of Scenic Road signs for the recently-designated portions of Bamforth and Baker Roads. This Commission suggested one be placed by the Bamforth Road barn (southern extent of Bamforth Road portion), one within first 100 feet of Bamforth Road south of the Baker Road intersection (northern extent), one within view of the Baker/Reservoir Road intersection (eastern extent of Baker Road portion), and one by blue trail crossing (western extent). Mr. Gately will submit the request to the Director of Public Works.

7. WEBSITE, EDUCATION & PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Trails Day walk is scheduled for June 4, 2012. This Commission plans to put an article on our website and publish one in The Reminder & Journal Inquirer to advertise the walk date. The date will also be published in the 2012 trails walk book.

8. TALCOTTVILLE MILL PROGRESS ON WETLANDS REMEDIATION

This item is no longer on the agenda of the Inland Wetlands Commission. This Commission will leave it as an agenda item to monitor long-term progress.

9. OPEN SPACE PROCESS/ZONE

Mr. Wieting sent a letter to the Northern Connecticut Land Trust (NCLT) and spoke with them regarding zoning of NCLT parcels as Open Space Zone. They meet Thursday, February 16, 2012 and are willing to approving submittal of applications to change zoning for their parcels to Open Space Zone.

10. VERNAL POOLS

Mr. George Arthur will attempt to gain access to a town-owned parcel east of Bamforth Road that contains a potential vernal pool. He will seek access via a route that will avoid crossing private property that we do not have permission to cross. We also intend to contact Mr. Edward Pawlak regarding inspection of the same parcel. Mr. Ouellette will contact Mr. Arthur regarding access from public roadway frontage or state property, if possible.

11. TANKERHOUSEN WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This is being addressed in Agenda Items 4, 5, and 10.

12. OTHER GOALS

We are awaiting a determination from the Town of Bolton on whether to proceed with the Bolton Lakes ERT now or if we should wait until all sewer lines are installed to see if the change in hydrology (i.e., less groundwater recharge due to loss to sewer line) has an observable effect. However, the change in hydrology will not likely be apparent in the short term. We anticipate an answer from Bolton within two weeks.

Mr. Ouellette questioned Jane Seymour of DEEP whether endangered Atlantic White Cedar is present on the Laurel Woods subdivision property. It is present on the Coventry side of the property and is not within the Vernon portion that is slated for residential development.

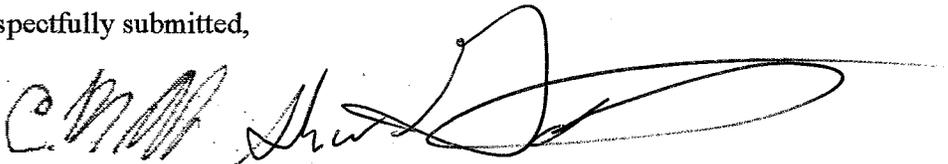
Mr. Ouellette provided Commission members with an Environmental 911 call pamphlet from CACIWC. It provides steps to contact the appropriate agencies if you are worried about the potential environmental impacts of a proposed development.

Mr. Ouellette also contacted Ms. Seymour regarding the potential to remove trees and branches downed within the Tankerhoosen River channel following the October 2011 snowstorm to allow fishermen access to this trout stream.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Ryan Goad', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

C. Ryan Goad, Conservation Commission Member