

**Town Of Thompson
Conservation Commission**

815 Riverside Drive
North Grosvenordale, Connecticut 06255

MINUTES

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MONDAY, JULY 16, 2007 * 7:00 P.M.

TOWN HALL 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

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Norma O'Leary, Vice-Chairman, called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Thompson to order on Monday, July 16, 2007 at 7:10 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at the Town Hall.

Members present: Raymond Austin, Norma O'Leary, Brenda Romanek Dvoryaninova, Kathy Mitchell, and Philip Thomas.

Members absent: Judy Rondeau and Ronald Tillen.

Staff present: Ida Ransom and Carolyn Werge.

Guests present: Harry Coman and Valerie Ietto.

Addition to agenda:

1. Philip Thomas moved and Kathy Mitchell seconded the motion to add Valerie Ietto from the New Roxbury Land Trust to the agenda; the motion carried unanimously. There was consensus that Valerie would speak when she arrived at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

1. Philip Thomas moved and Kathy Mitchell seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the June 18, 2007 meeting as presented; the motion carried.

Financial Matters

1. There was no financial report available.

Correspondence

1. Members received via email and paper copy was received by the Conservation Officer:
 - a. Minutes: Conservation Commission, June 18, 2007.
 - b. Agenda: Planning and Zoning Commission "Notice" Change of Venue June 25, 2007.
 - c. Minutes: Planning and Zoning Commission, June 25, 2007.
 - d. Agenda: Zoning Board of Appeals, July 9, 2007.
 - e. Minutes: Zoning Board of Appeals, July 9, 2007.
2. Incoming
 - a. Copy of letter sent to the Water Planning Council, Dept of Public Utility Control, New Britain, CT dated June 18, 2007 from the Town of Greenwich Conservation Commission expressing their concerns with Senate Bill 1341, "which would allow for extraction of minerals on Class I and Class II water company lands for commercial enterprise. Although the legislation in question specifically relates to land owned by the New Britain Water Company (the City of New Britain), it sets a terrible precedent for other water company owned lands located in our public drinking water supply." Carolyn Werge noted that this bill had passed with various amendments.

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- b. Email dated June 20, 2007 from Judy Rondeau to all Conservation Commission members with the web site for the DEP Green plan.
 - c. Emails from Carolyn Werge dated July 2 and July 5, 2007 with the preliminary and final report respectfully on the Reardon Road Industrial Park.
 - d. Email, forwarded by Carolyn Werge, giving notice of the special meeting for the Thompson Economic Development Committee to be held July 10, 2007.
 - e. *The Habitat* Spring 2007 Newsletter, Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission, Inc.; a copy was given to each member.
 - f. A copy of the letter, dated July 13, 2007, from First Selectman A. David Babbitt to Karen M. Quaiel thanking her for her donation of land, being Assessor's Map 141, Block 17, Lots 120 through 125, with the value as stated in the Assessor's records totaling \$40,400.00.
3. Outgoing
- a. Letter signed by Vice-Chairman, Norma O'Leary to Karen Quaiel thanking her for her donation of property; enclosed were copies of the Assessor's field cards for the property.

Guest Speaker: Valerie Ietto, New Roxbury Land Trust

- 1. Valerie explained how the New Roxbury Land Trust started in 1997. They had significant pro bono help in setting up the Trust. The Trust has very strict criteria about what they will accept; they prefer no encumbrances on the property.
- 2. She emphasized:
 - a. that a baseline be established for each property;
 - b. that the interpretation of "open space" varies tremendously;
 - c. that the level and kind of stewardship depends on the kind of property;
 - d. that only the State and Federal governments are not held liable if something happens on the property;
 - e. that Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) has a minimum of 50 acres as a requirement along with other specified criteria;
 - f. that "in fee" means that the Trust owns the land.
- 3. Valerie distributed copies of the Trust's "Criteria for Setting Land Protection Priorities" for the Commission members to review and study. She will forward other information to Carolyn Werge who will pass it along to the members.

Officer and Committee Reports

- 1. Conservation Officer Report
 - a. The Conservation Commission informational pamphlet is being printed; 1,000 copies were ordered.
 - b. The Conservation stewardship program has resumed. On Saturday, August 4, 2007, Carolyn Werge will make arrangements for the Commission to visit the Ryler Court Subdivision.

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- c. Carolyn Werge reviewed Kevin Kennedy's "Right to Farm" proposal and has made some notes; Conservation Commission members who have comments were asked to share them with Carolyn Werge by Wednesday.
- d. The Board of Selectmen passed a resolution on July 2, 2007 endorsing the Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA).
- e. Carolyn Werge attended a meeting of the Thompson Together Environment Committee Trails Committee along with Kevin Kennedy, Town Planner, to see how the National Park Service (NPS) might be able to help Thompson. The NPS offers non-monetary assistance in the form of guidance in organizing activities that help a town to reach its goals associated with "Trails, Rivers and Conservation". Kevin Kennedy is preparing the necessary request to obtain the assistance of John Monroe, NPS, whose role is to help make things happen at the ground level.
- f. Carolyn Werge will be meeting with Town Counsel on Wednesday, July 18, 2007 to review the updated maps associated with the right of way for the donated 37 acres of the River Junction Estates and Rocky Brook Conservation land.
- g. Carolyn Werge and Ronald Tillen attended the Economic Development Commission on June 26, 2007.
 - 1) Along with discussing the Conservation Commission's work and explaining how the conservation fits into the permit process, the members received a packet of information on the Conservation Commission.
 - 2) The Conservation Commission review process was explained using the Thompson Rail Industrial Inland Wetlands application.
 - 3) The Economic Development Commission will be added to the Conservation Commission e-mailing list for agendas, minutes and completed reviews.
 - 4) The Economic Development Commission asked how many acres are now protected in Town. There are currently 3260 acres protected out of the 31,232 acres in Town. The breakdown is as follows:
 - 1,764 acres = US Army Corps of Engineers
 - 954 acres = State owned
 - 237 acres = Privately owned (Land Trusts)
 - 192 acres = Town Open Space and Recreation
 - 113 acres = Conservation easements on private land

2. Others - None

Old Business

- 1. Update on previous Conservation reviews: Wetlands Application #07-06-04, Thompson Rail Industrial Park, LLC, 307 Reardon Road, Assessor's Map 65, Block 101, Lot 6. The review was completed and distributed on July 2, 2007 prior to the Wetlands meeting. Raymond Austin noted that Inland Wetlands approved the application.
- 2. Update on Richardson Property – still in the hands of Town Counsel.

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3. Status of LeClair subdivision – the transfer of the 76 acres of open space to the State is still in process.
4. Update on Whipple property – the State Archaeologist will visit the site on Wednesday, August 15, 2007; Carolyn Werge will attend..
5. Invitation to Army Corps of Engineers – No response has been received so Norma O'Leary and Carolyn Werge will make a personal visit to the Head of the Corps of Engineers at the West Thompson Dam.
6. Other - None

New Business

1. Requests for Review of Potential Development Proposals: None.
2. Other.

Public Forum

1. Harry Coman stated that Valerie Ietto's presentation was very informative and very much appreciated.

Members' Forum

1. Brenda Romanek Dvoryaninova reiterated that the information presented by Valerie Ietto was very informative.

Announcements

1. The Planning and Zoning Commission are near to completing their revised regulations. Once they are completed there will be a public hearing with copies of the revisions available for review.

Next Meeting

1. Monday, August 20, 2007, 7 p.m., Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Adjournment

1. Philip Thomas moved and Brenda Romanek Dvoryaninova seconded the motion to adjourn; the motion carried. Norma O'Leary adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Ida Ransom,
Secretary