

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
7 CANDLEWOOD HILL ROAD, HIGGANUM  
WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2016  
APPROVED MINUTES  
*Approved as Submitted at the 25 May 2016 Meeting***

**ATTENDANCE**

A	Walter Bragoni, Vice Chairman
X	Ian Gibson
X	Mardi Hanson-d'Alessandro
X	Gail Reynolds, Chairman
X	Tom Worthley
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

**1. Call to Order**

Mrs. Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**2. Attendance**

Attendance was taken.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Tom Worthley moved to approve the 24 February 2016 agenda as submitted. Mardi Hanson second. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Presentation: Haddam Land Trust, Beaver Ledges, Acquisition of Property, Letter of Support**

Mrs. Reynolds asked that a motion be made in regard to a letter of support pertaining to the Haddam Land Trust's purchase of the Beaver Ledges property.

**MOTION:** Tom Worthley moved to approve the Conservation Commission's letter in support of the Haddam Land Trust's purchase of the Beaver Ledges property. Mardi Hanson second. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Tom Worthley moved to approve the 28 October 2015 minutes as submitted. Ian Gibson second. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Public Comment**

None.

## **7. Old Business**

### **a. Open Space**

Mrs. Reynolds reported that Manon LeFevre has contacted her and is available as a consultant from now until June.

Mrs. Reynolds reported that she met with Lizz Milardo, First Selectman, to explain the Commission's mission and that Mrs. Milardo was interested in the Conservation Easement Project (suggested a write up be done). Mrs. Reynolds also reported that she discussed with Mrs. Milardo the potential for a one percent surcharge land conveyance tax; however, Representative Phil Miller has indicated that this most likely will not take place this year. Mrs. Reynolds stated that she values Rep. Miller's opinion and perhaps it will be addressed next year. It was noted that this will have to go through the state level and then a town meeting.

### **b. Budget**

Mrs. Reynolds reported that the Commission has \$1,000 that will need to be spent by the end of June.

Mrs. Reynolds stated that Liz Glidden, Town Planner, had indicated that she will be nominating her for the Aquarian award.

Mr. Gibson asked about water quality testing being done. Mrs. Reynolds stated that the Land Trust did testing in the 1990s. Mr. Worthley stated he believes some chemical components and bacteria were tested for at that time. Mrs. Reynolds reported that the Salmon River Committee also does testing. Mrs. Hanson asked if this would be under the Wetlands Commission's purview, as she wouldn't want to trend on another's commission's territory. Mrs. Reynolds stated no.

## **7. New Business**

### **a. Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Kick Off Meeting**

Mrs. Reynolds reported that there were a number of people at the kick off meeting and believes the numbers will calm down as the meetings go further along. Mrs. Reynolds stated that during the initial meeting, she made the point that the money should be spend more wisely as the last company to assist with the update presented a boiler plate document and there was a lot of work for the committee to rewrite the document.

### **b. Communications/Publications/Correspondence**

**Connecticut Land Conservation Council Conference**, Saturday, 19 March 2016, Wesleyan University, Middletown. Conference fee can be paid for out of the budget.

## **8. Land Use Dept. Report**

Mrs. Batzner reported on the following:

**Perma Treat, Timber Harvests** – The Wetlands Commission approved two timber harvests at their February meeting.

**Proposed Regulation Updates** – The Planning and Zoning Commission approved a number of their proposed updates to the regulations, but continued the public hearing on the proposed Housing Opportunity District regulations. Hearing continued to Thursday, 3 March 2016.

**New Wetland Alternates** – Mrs. Reynolds reported that she was recently appointed as an alternate member to the Wetlands Commission.

## **10. Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Tom Worthley moved to adjourn. Mardi Hanson second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bunny Hall Batzner*

Bunny Hall Batzner  
Recording Clerk

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 30 March 2016.**