

Town of Wethersfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of the March 14, 2012 Meeting
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Co-Chairman Robert Pulford called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM in the Town Hall Conference Room, which was attended by Commissioners Andy Adil, Ingrid Boelhouwer, Rick Doran, William Knapp, Ralph Moyer, Robert Pulford and Rebecca Zalznock. Also in attendance was Kathy Bagley of the Parks and Recreation Department; and guest Jim Woodworth.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes for February 8, 2012 were reviewed and on a Motion by R. Moyer, Seconded by R. Doran, approved unanimously.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

J. Woodworth distributed a fact sheet from the Department of Agriculture explaining the Pilot Program for farm preservation (*which is discussed under New Business below*).

III. K. BAGLEY UPDATE

Ms. Bagley's report is associated with the discussions of Old Business and New Business.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

The Commission discussed concepts of the existing Plan of Conservation and Development (PCD) regarding any changes for the proposed revision of the Plan. K. Bagley stated that the Town's consultant (Planimetrics) will be meeting with all Town Commissions in the future to obtain information on suggested changes and additions to the Plan. Ms. Bagley will inquire from the Planning and Zoning Commission of any particular format that will be used for Commissions to provide suggested changes and additions. The Commission discussed changes related to the Community Farms Preservation Program; language on existing and expanded bikeways and paths (in particular the connection to the proposed bike path across the Putnam Bridge); the addition of a discussion on the Master Plan for the proposed Beaver Brook Linear Park; the incorporation of Land Management Plans for Town-owned lands; a discussion on the water quality of the Cove; and the preservation of the Agricultural Conservation Zone.

V. NEW BUSINESS (J. WOODWORTH)

a) Guest Jim Woodworth discussed the Commission's potential involvement in the Prequalification process for an application for the Community Farms Preservation pilot program offered by the State Department of Agriculture. Mr. Woodworth encouraged the Commission to pursue an application by meeting the following prequalification requirements:

- 1 The recognition of farmland preservation in the PCD.
- 2 The establishment of an agricultural commission.
- 3 The preparation of an Inventory of local farmland resources.
- 4 The prioritization of farms for preservation using an appropriate criteria.
- 5 The designation of a fund for farmland preservation.
- 6 The submittal of a request for farmland soil identification to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services.

b) Mr. Woodworth also discussed the critical need to preserve the current Agricultural Conservation Zone, which is directly related to Zoning changes currently being reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission (and particularly related to the DiCioccio Brothers proposed development along Elm Street). The Commission was encouraged to attend one of the two monthly P&Z meetings when changes to the zoning regulations are under consideration; and particularly changes that may favor revisions to the Agricultural Conservation Zone.

Co-Chairman Pulford adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM, so moved by B. Knapp and seconded by A. Adil.

Respectfully submitted by

Rebecca M. Zalznock