

**TOWN OF NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
Monday, March 9, 2009**

TOWN HALL - Board Room 6:30 p.m.

REGULAR MEMBERS PRESENT:

REGULAR MEMBERS ABSENT:

**Mr. Rice, Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem Ms. Pfeifer, Secretary
Mr. Lewis
Mr. Nissley
Ms. Sweitzer**

Also in Attendance:

Steve Kleppin, Town Planner/Senior Enforcement Officer

MEETING

1. Call meeting to order/roll call.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. by Chairman Rice.

2. Approval of the Minutes of February 9, 2009 Special Meeting

Upon motion of Mr. Lewis and second of Mr. Nissley, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the Meeting on February 9, 2009.

3. Waveny Cornfields Proposal Review

Skip Hobbs, 181 Mariomi Road, presented the proposal for restoring the Waveny Cornfields. Mr. Hobbs discussed the history and current condition of the fields, restoration plans, past studies regarding habitat restoration, timeline and financial costs. There was discussion regarding support from various groups within the New Canaan community. Mr. Hobbs stated that volunteerism would be a tremendous cost-cutting benefit as well as an educational benefit to the public. Mr. Hobbs indicated he would be finalizing his proposal including a final work plan and budget. The Commission will be informally liaised with the Waveny Cornfields Ad Hoc group.

4. Natural Resource Maps Review/Discussion

Steve Kleppin, Town Planner, discussed current maps that are on file with the Town and presented a Land Use map dated 2002-2003 for the purpose of reviewing map resources for the development of a natural resources plan as well as drafting an Open Space map. There was discussion by the Commission regarding the various Open Space categories and their definitions. The Commission determined their first priority would be to develop a map and update the Open Space Inventory, classifying each open space and developing definitions of each category that would be simplified for the general public's use. Mr. Rice and Mr. Nissley will set up a future meeting with Mr. Kleppin to review map development.

5. Other Priorities – Discussion/Reports Back/Next Step

a. New Canaan Recycling

Mr. Lewis reviewed his finding of the current recycling policies that residents and businesses are/are not in compliance with. Mr. Lewis attended a Department of Public Works meeting that discussed requirements of recycling schedules, public recycling facilities, as well as having material hauled to other towns. Mr. Lewis discussed the level of compliance with the recycling practices of residents, businesses and independent haulers and possible future developments.

Upon motion of Mr. Lewis and second of Ms. Sweitzer, the Commission approved unanimously the formation of a 3-5 person Subcommittee to develop an educational platform for improving current recycling efforts, educating the public on recycling, and presenting alternative ideas in recycling methods.

b. Land Conservation Property

Ms. Sweitzer discussed her meeting with Arthur Potts, New Canaan Land Trust representative, to review various Land Trust properties in town. Ms. Sweitzer suggested to the Commission to tour the top five properties and review trails and various parking areas.

6. Discussion of any other business

a. Continuing Care Facility Concept

Mr. Rice informed the Commission that Jeb Walker, First Selectman, asked the Conservation Commission to begin discussion on the concept of the Waveny parcel as a continuing care facility.

7. Next Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Town Hall.

There being no further business to come before the Commission and upon motion of Ms. Sweitzer and second of Mr. Rice, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Attest: John Rice, Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem