

**TOWN OF NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Monday, May 11, 2009**

**TOWN HALL - Board Room 7:00 p.m.**

**REGULAR MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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**Mr. Rice, Chairman & Acting Secretary  
Mr. Nissley  
Ms. Sweitzer**

**Ms. Pfeifer, Secretary  
Mr. Lewis**

Also in Attendance:

Steve Kleppin, Town Planner/Senior Enforcement Officer  
Elizabeth Jones, Town Council

**MEETING**

**1. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Rice.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of April 9, 2009 and Agenda.**

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting on April 9, 2009 and the Agenda.

**3. Resource map update/discussion/next steps - Steve Kleppin.**

Steve Kleppin reviewed the latest revisions on the open space map and discussed the meaning of each classification included on the revised map. The four categories discussed were: "Managed; Dedicated; Protected and Perceived," classifications for open space. The Commission discussed possibly classifying town open space as "Dedicated", which already includes public school open space. Also discussed was revising the map(s) and how the map(s) would be used in regards to natural resources, public access and land use. The open space map will continue to be revised as the Commission makes determinations on how best to classify all open space with an effort to maintain consistency with the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) open space map from 2003.

**4. LT/Audubon/Water Company land update/discussion/next steps – Susan Sweitzer.**

Ms. Sweitzer discussed her upcoming meeting with David Wright, president of the New Canaan Audubon Society and invited other Commission members to attend. Ms. Sweitzer hopes to meet again with the water companies (First Taxing District Water Department and Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut) to continue the dialogue on open space access. Toddy Turrentine, Environmental Commission, suggested a meeting with Kathy Holland, Inland Wetlands, as she is very familiar with both companies. Additionally, Ms. Turrentine suggested a “conservation” approach to working with the water companies. Next step for Ms. Sweitzer would be to further investigate opportunity in the top three to five land trust properties that could be developed for public access. Specific to this investigation would be to find out who are potential partners of the Conservation Commission and who could help in the improvement of the land in preparation of public use. Ms. Sweitzer also discussed the possibility of an unpaid internship program to utilize local student resources. A proposed next step implementation plan will be developed by Ms. Sweitzer for the next meeting.

**5. Continue discussion of other potential priorities - All Members.**

Mr. Nissley discussed parks, clean-up projects, and education efforts to keep the parks clean.

Ms. Sweitzer discussed the Glass House access issue and the properties that currently surround the Glass House.

**6. Other old business/Any new business.**

It was recommended by Mr. Rice that members of the Commission should try to attend the NEMO training session Tuesday, June 9, 2009 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., which will discuss “Conducting a Community Resource Inventory (CRI)”.

**7. Adjourn.**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

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Attest: John Rice, Chairman & Acting Secretary