

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2019, 7:30 P.M.
MEETING ROOM B MADISON TOWN CAMPUS**

Subject to approval: Minutes of the Meeting of July 8, 2019 - 7:30 p.m. - Meeting Room B - Madison Town Campus.

Members present: Chairman Francis Brady, Vice Chairman Christine Bouchard, Secretary Alex Cushing, and Commissioner Heather Crawford.

Members absent: Rachel Blundon and Richard Gedney.

Others present: None.

1. **Call meeting to order:** Chairman Francis Brady called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.
2. **Review and approve minutes for June 10, 2019 meeting as submitted.**

Commissioner Heather Crawford made the motion to accept the June 10, 2019 minutes as submitted; it was seconded by Secretary Alex Cushing and unanimously approved.

Vote to accept the June 10, 2019 minutes as submitted, passed, 4-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Brady, Vice Chairman Christine Bouchard, Secretary Alex Cushing, and Commissioner Crawford.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

3. **Call for additional agenda items:** Commissioner Crawford asked that the item *Finalize Coastal Resources narrative—Commissioner Crawford to lead and advise on next steps*, be changed to a review of Vice Chairman Bouchard's three topics. Chairman Brady asked that a discussion on whether to join the Hammonasset Festival in October be put on the agenda. Secretary Cushing asked that the commission discuss taking part in the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Hunting and Fishing event in September.

Commissioner Heather Crawford made the motion to change one item and add two items to the agenda; it was seconded by Chairman Brady and unanimously approved.

Vote to adjust the agenda, as noted, passed, 4-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Brady, Vice Chairman Christine Bouchard, Secretary Alex Cushing, and Commissioner Crawford.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

4. **Natural Resources Inventory (NRI):**

~ **Feedback on the Intern Field walk—Vice Chairman Bouchard to lead:** There was one meeting with the interns; Vice Chairman Bouchard stated that it went well, with discussion and work centering on the data collection application and efforts at Bauer Park pond. There is a category for fresh water, and it was suggested that the word "pond" be added to the list in that category. Chairman Brady stated that the interns were enthusiastic, and he asked how far the high school Eco Club members could go within Madison to continue data collection. Commissioner Crawford stated that there are many

places that students in the Eco Club would be able to walk from Daniel Hand High School. Vice Chairman Bouchard stated that travel involving automobiles would require adult supervision and liability protection. Vice Chairman Brady stated that plans for the Eco Club's assistance with the Conservation Commission should be put on the commission's next meeting agenda. Commissioner Crawford suggested Rockland as a destination with the students.

~ **Vice Chairman Bouchard's review of three Natural Resources Inventory topics:** Chairman Brady stated that he looked at the town of Guilford's 141-page natural resources inventory and believes it is outstanding and should be used as a resource in completing the Madison inventory. It was published in January 2005 and is entitled *Natural Resources Inventory and Assessment Town of Guilford, CT*. Since there are funds available for a consultant to assist with the Madison project, Chairman Brady stated that he sent emails out to consultants he had found online, and one of those consultants worked with Haddam and Groton. Vice Chairman Bouchard asked whether there are copies of the narratives Conservation Commissioners have already completed. Secretary Cushing provided Geology, Uplands, and the Agriculture and its Cultural Resources narratives; Chairman Brady plans to process them and send them to the commissioners for further review. A consultant could cost at least \$5,000, according to Commissioner Crawford, adding that bids will have to be sought. Chairman Brady stated that he will seek three quotes. Commissioners reviewed Vice Chairman Bouchard's Natural Resources Inventory timeline, as well as the completed narratives. Thus far, the Conservation Commission has the following completed narratives: Fresh Water Resources, Coastal Resources, Natural Scenic Resources, Natural Resources-Based Recreation, Uplands, Geology, Fresh Water, Dark Sky, and Agriculture and its Cultural Resources. Narratives are still needed for Agriculture and Open Space. Chairman Brady stated that a consultant could assist with the completion and updating of maps. Once Chairman Brady sends the completed narratives to the commissioners, Secretary Cushing will review and compare them to the Guilford natural resources inventory to ensure Madison's inventory is complete with the appropriate details. It was noted that at the end of every section of the Guilford inventory, there was a paragraph of invasive species, because invasive species are a threat to the natural resources, according to Commissioner Crawford. Commissioners are expected to meet July 25, 2019 to further discuss the work.

5. **Project/Issue Updates**

~ **Sustainable CT Silver Goal for Madison—Intern project updates:** Chairman Brady announced that Commissioner Scott Sandora has resigned from the Conservation Commission. At the next Conservation Commission meeting, July 22, 2019, the interns will be available to discuss assignments. The video project is the most important assignment that must be completed before the interns are finished for the summer, according to Chairman Brady.

- Watershed Education (Sustainable CT category 2.1)—Commissioner Sandora: Chairman Brady Stated that this could be a part of the Natural Resources Inventory, and he will discuss it with a consultant, once chosen.

- Natural Resource Inventory (Sustainable CT category 2.5)—Commissioners Bouchard and Cushing: This topic was discussed, above.

- Invasive Species Education & Management (Sustainable CT category 2.10)—Commissioners Crawford and Blundon: Commissioner Crawford stated that five to 10 invasive species could be chosen for educational purposes; Commissioner Blundon has sent the Conservation Commission a list of 10.

- Innovation Action (Sustainable CT category 10.1)—*Create a Sustainability curriculum for Madison school district, Vice Chairman Bouchard and Chairman Brady:* Chairman Brady stated he will send another email to the school system to gauge interest in the topic. Vice Chairman Bouchard stated that this will be a long-term project, and they could engage in an open dialogue about the possibility for the proposed curriculum. *Create Educational Support for Madison Residents and Businesses on Single Use Plastics and the CT Plastic Checkout Bag Ban—Chairman Brady:* Chairman Brady is working on this, and he expects to discuss it at a Board of Selectmen's meeting, along with a summary of the

Conservation Commission's accomplishments.

6. **Outreach Opportunities:** Once a month, the Conservation Commission hosts an educational outreach section at the Farmers Market, and there were 24 visitors at the most recent market, according to Chairman Brady. Commissioners discussed the possibility of exhibiting in or visiting two upcoming events: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Hunting and Fishing Discover Outdoor Connecticut program, Sept. 15, 2019, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Nature Center, Hammonasset Beach State Park, and the Hammonasset Festival at the Guilford Fairgrounds, Oct. 5 and Oct. 6, with an Aug. 19, 2019 deadline to register to exhibit.

7. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Crawford made the motion to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.; it was seconded by Vice Chairman Bouchard and unanimously approved.

Vote to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. passed, 4-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Brady, Vice Chairman Bouchard, Secretary Cushing, and Commissioner Crawford.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene H. Kennedy, clerk