

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 15, 2011

E. CURTIS AMBLER ROOM

These minutes are not verbatim, but represent a summary of major statements and comments. For minutes verbatim, refer to audiotape on file in the Office of the Town Clerk. Audiotapes are retained for the minimum period required under the retention schedule as provided under Connecticut Law.

Chairman Pappa called the roll call at 7:02 p.m. and noted Commissioners Block, Igielski and Shapiro were present. Also present were Alternates Harlow, Turgeon and Zelek, Mr. Anthony Ferraro, Town Engineer and Mr. Chris Greenlaw, Assistant Town Engineer.

NOTE: Chairman Pappa designated that Alternate Harlow would vote for Commissioner Longo, Alternate Turgoen would vote for Commissioner Byer and Alternate Zelek would vote for Commissioner Forte.

ITEM III
ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of December 21, 2010

Commissioner Igielski noted on the middle of Page 1 the motion to accept the minutes of November 16, 2010 should read "Motion made by Commissioner Forte...and was seconded by Commissioner Igielski (Igieaki)...motion was carried."

Motion made by Commissioner Igielski to accept the minutes as corrected and was seconded by Alternate Harlow. There was no discussion. Vote was 4 yes, 0 no, 3 abstentions (Block, Turgeon and Shapiro) and the motion was carried.

ITEM IV
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

ITEM VA
Application 2011-01, Replacement of a Pedestrian Bridge in Mill Pond.

Mr. Anthony Ferraro, Town Engineer, noted this is a Town of Newington Application to replace an existing pedestrian (walkway) bridge located at the southerly end of Mill Pond. The Town has hired a consultant to prepare plans for the project.

Mr. Mark Roming of MR of Roming Associates, consultant for the project, entered the following remarks into the record:

- A. Replacement of existing wooden stairway located along the southern side of the natural rock spill way. The existing stairway would be removed and the new structure consisting of new wooden stairs, hand rails and platforms in place. Silt fence would be used for soil and sedimentation control.

- B. Replacement of existing wood plank/steel beam footbridge located at the southerly end of Mill Pond. The existing structure and end walls would be removed and replaced with a one piece 30 foot wooden structure which could be installed in about two (2) hours. A plan showing a picture of a similar structure on Town of Berlin Project was shown for illustration purposes. Wooden piles, which would minimize any direct impact to the wetland, would be used as part of the end wall structures. During his (Mr. Roming) first visit to the site the steel beams of the footbridge were in the water acting as a dam and trapping debris.

Commissioner Block noted that if the existing structure is working, why replace it?

Chairman Pappa noted that the new structure would improve the flow water in the water course, eliminate the damming effect caused by the existing footbridge and improve the quality of the water (upstream of the existing footbridge).

Mr. Roming noted that the plan is to put the project out to bid in April with installation to take place during the summer.

Commissioner Block asked if the Dutch weed would be addressed? Mr. Roming responded that it would be addressed during construction.

Commissioner Block asked if any material could be removed from under the bridge during the installation of the new structure? Mr. Roming responded no except for the area around the new end walls.

Chairman Pappa asked if Mill Pond was man made? Commissioner Block responded no.

Commissioner Blocked noted that the existing stairs are built into the slope (of the existing ground). Will the new ones be installed in the same manner? Mr. Roming responded no. They will be built on existing ground.

Alternate Harlow asked how wide would the steps be (for the new stair way? Mr. Roming responded four (4) feet wide.

Commissioner Block asked why can't a greater clearance be created between the water surface and the bottom of the new structure? Mr. Roming responded due to the additional cost for a longer structure that would be needed to chase the slope (of the ground) to maintain proper handicap access.

ITEM VB

Application 2010-03, 3066 Berlin Turnpike, Permit Transfer

Mr. Alan Bongiovanni, the current Permit holder, said that he submitted a letter requesting a transfer of Permit 2010-03 from himself to Morningside Newington LLC.

Alternate Zelek noted that the current address of the property is 199 Deming Street. Which address is the correct one? Mr. Bongiovanni noted that at the time when the application was made, the subject parcel was part of a larger parcel whose address was 3066 Berlin Turnpike. When the Application was approved, the parcel under discussion was cut out and assigned the address of 199 Deming Street.

Motion made by Commissioner Igielski to transfer Permit 2010-03 from Alan Bongiovanni to Morningside Newington LLC for property located at 119 Deming Street with all conditions remaining in place. Motion seconded by Commissioner Block. There was no discussion. Vote was 7 yes, 0 no and the motion was carried.

ITEM VC

Renewal of General Permit Number 1 by the Town of Newington

Mr. Ferraro noted that the Permit was last renewed in 2001 for a period of five (5) years. This permit allows the Town to provide general maintenance of Town wetlands and water courses to include blockages, trees, beaver dams, etc, and ability to respond to an emergency.

Alternate Harlow noted that the work done behind the Senior Center should have required a permit.

Mr. Ferraro said that he concurred with Mr. Harlow's assessment.

There was an exchange between Chairman Pappa and Alternate Harlow. Chairman Pappa said the decision on what was considered to be a maintenance activity should be left up to management; whereas, Alternate Harlow said that there was a need to set standard criteria between maintenance and an emergency. We (the Commission) have had two (2) bad experiences in the past (where the activity ended up with a scope of work where a permit should have secured from the Commission). Listen to tape for details of the exchange.

Mr. Ferraro noted that the Permit was extended in 2001. However, the Permit cannot be found at this time.

Commissioner Igielski noted that it was his recollection that the intent of the Permit was to allow the Town to perform an activity that did not involve the disturbance of the ground. If a shovel was to be put into the ground, (Administrative Officer) would come to the Commission and review the scope of work to determine if a permit would be required. Extension of the Permit would allow the Town to perform basic maintenance activities and the ability to come to the Commission for review and comment when a questionable situation arose. There was a discussion among Commission members since the original Permit 1 can not be found at this time on the need to now have a written instrument in place. Listen to tape for details of the discussion.

Commissioner Block noted that since the Permit is lost, then there should be a new document setting conditions as to what constitutes a maintenance activity and under what condition(s) when a permit would be needed.

Commissioner Igielski suggested that either the existing Permit or a new document be made available at the April meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Block that the item be tabled over to the April meeting and that either the existing Permit or a new document prepared by Public Works be made available at said meeting. Motion seconded by Alternate Zelek. There was no discussion. Vote was 6 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Igielski) and the motion was carried.

ITEM VII

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: NONE

ITEM VIII

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS: NONE

- A. Mr. Ferraro passed out a copy of the 2010 winter issue of “The Habitat” to Commission members.

- B. Mr. Ferraro reported that the Building and Engineering Departments and Town planner have been relocated to temporary quarters in the renovated area of the old Police Department wing. New facilities will be built in the unfinished area of the wing. It appears at this time when renovations are completed to E. Curtis Ambler Room, Commission meetings would return to that location. It is not known at this time if new renovations in the old Police Wing would include a conference room to hold meetings. There was a general discussion among Commission members on the difficulties of transferring materials from the new office area to the E. Curtis Ambler Room. The discussion concluded in a Motion by Commissioner Block to recommend to the Town Manager that because of the bulk of materials required for a Commission Meeting, that a facility be provided adjacent to the new (Engineering) Department location for Commission meetings. Motion seconded by Alternate Harlow. There was no discussion. Vote was 7 yes, 0 no and the motion was carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Igielski to adjourn meeting at 8:05 p.m. and was seconded by Alternate Turgeon. There was no discussion. Vote was 7 yes, 0 no and motion was carried.

Peter M. Arburr, Recording Secretary

Commission Members

Tayna Lane, Town Clerk

Town Manager John Salamone

Edmund Meehan, Town Planner

Councilor Myra Cohen

Chairperson, Town Plan and Zoning

Ben Ancona Jr., Town Attorney

Anthony Ferraro, Town Engineer

Lucy Robbins Wells Library (2)

