

**Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 8, 2013**  
**Town Hall Meeting Room, Old Town Rd.**  
**5:30pm**

**Present:** Members: Vice Chair Fred Leeder, Donald Littlefield, Les Slate, Marea Mott, and David Roosa. **Absent:** Chair Ned Phillips, Jr. and John Hopf. Also present was Terri Chmiel, Administrative Assistant for the recording of the minutes.

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Mr. Leeder called the meeting to order at 5:35p.m.

**Correspondence**

**Receipt of a memo dated September 25, 2013 from Molly Fitzpatrick re: Tree Ordinance.**

The Commission was in receipt of a memo dated September 25, 2013 from the Town Council. The Town Council asked the Commission to develop “best practices” for property owners planting trees and hedges adjacent to roads or rights of way, i.e. setbacks or maintenance expectations that will keep shoulders clear for pedestrians.

Mr. Littlefield made a motion seconded by Mr. Slate to establish a distance of 5’ to 10’ depending on plants and mature trees thereby anticipating the drip line to create setbacks establishing safety for pedestrians and visibility for vehicles.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Mott, Slate, Littlefield and Roosa)                      0 Nays  
2 Absent (Phillips and Hopf)

**Discussion regarding the burning of pallets on the beach.**

After a brief discussion, this item was tabled to the following month.

Mr. Littlefield made a motion seconded by Mr. Slate to table this item to the next regular scheduled meeting.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Mott, Slate, Littlefield and Roosa)                      0 Nays  
2 Absent (Phillips and Hopf)

**Discussion of an Eco-Depot Event.**

Mr. Slate submitted an ad regarding Eco-Depot Event in Johnston, Rhode Island to drop off household toxic chemicals, pesticides and leftover oil-based paints. Terri Chmiel e-mailed Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation asking if they would host an Eco-Depot Event on Block Island. Joe Rotella, Special Waste Manager responded by e-mail that he is working with Sean McGarry, BIRM (Block Island Resource Management) to support an event in May 2014.

**Discussion on unleashing Asian weevils to attack mile-a-minute vine.**

**Letter of endorsement to URI Lisa Tewksbury for release on Block Island.**

Ms. Mott discussed her concerns of introducing a new species to the island. After discussion ensued, the Commission decided to table this item. The Commission would like more information from Mr. Phillips, Jr. regarding this agenda item.

Ms. Mott made a motion seconded by Mr. Slate to table this item to the next regular scheduled meeting.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Mott, Slate, Littlefield and Roosa)                      0 Nays  
2 Absent (Phillips and Hopf)

**Schedule a work date for dune Restoration.**

Volunteers will meet at the Town Beach on October 15, 2013 to install snow fencing.

**Discussion/act on the proposed deer herd reduction and send advisory to Town Council.**

Mr. Leeder opened discussion on the proposed reduction of the deer herd on the island. Mr. Littlefield discussed the problem of so many people getting sick that he felt the Commission should take a position. Ms. Mott stated tourists walking on trails should to be informed of deer ticks.

Mr. Littlefield made a motion seconded by Mr. Slate to send a favorable advisory to the New Shoreham Town Council in support of the deer herd reduction on Block Island.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Mott, Slate, Littlefield and Roosa)                      0 Nays  
2 Absent (Phillips and Hopf)

**Update on the proposed changes to the Zoning and Wastewater Management Ordinances.**

Mr. Leeder and Mr. Hopf attended the Town Council Public Hearing to consider changes to the Zoning and Wastewater Management Ordinances on September 18, 2013. Mr. Leeder informed the Commission the State of Rhode Island is taking the position if a homeowner has a galley drain field that it is considered a failed system. The Town Council has taken the matter under advisement.

**Update on Rhode Map RI.**

Mr. Leeder discussed the proposed Rhode Island mapping system overlays along with the interaction of the marsh migration due to the sea level rise. No action was needed or taken.

**Discuss Native Bee Project.**

No action was needed or taken.

**Approval of Minutes.**

Mr. Littlefield made a motion seconded by Mr. Roosa to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2013 meeting as presented.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Mott, Slate, Littlefield and Roosa)      0 Nays  
2 Absent (Phillips and Hopf)

**Adjournment**

Mr. Leeder announced the Rhody Native Initiative collects seeds for distribution. An Identification Walk is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2013 at Rodman's Hollow from 2:00-4:00pm. The Island Free Library will put on a slide show Saturday October 12, 2013 from 5:00-6:30pm. With no other business the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14pm in a motion by Mr. Littlefield and seconded by Mr. Slate.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Hopf, Slate, Littlefield and Roosa)      0 Nays  
2 Absent (Phillips and Mott)

Respectfully submitted

Terri L. Chmiel

Minutes approved: November 12, 2013