

**Conservation Commission Minutes
Tuesday, June 10, 2014
Town Hall Meeting Room, Old Town Rd.
5:30pm**

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

Call to Order

Chair Mr. Phillips, Jr., called the regular meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 5:33pm.

Mr. Roosa joined the meeting at 5:36pm

Law, Ann. Plat 6, Lot 136. Advisory to the Zoning Board for an Application for a Special Use Permit under Section 311(e) and 408 for an addition to an existing Inn.

Ann Law spoke to Terri Chmiel regarding the Application for a Special Use Permit; Ms. Law stated the Planning Board has asked her to return with additional information/changes. This item was deferred.

Correspondence:

- a.) **Receipt of a Cease and Desist Order dated May 6, 2014 from Laura Miguel, Coastal Resources Management Council for the Estate of Eleanor T. Mott re: Clearing of Vegetation.**

The Commission received a letter dated May 6, 2014 from Laura Miguel, Coastal Resources Management Council re: Clearing of Vegetation. No action was needed or taken.

Dune Restoration

- a.) **West Beach Road/Beane Point**

Discussion ensued on dune restoration at the end of West Beach Road towards Beane Point. Mr. Hopf reported that nine (9) rolls of snow fencing remain; he will installed two rolls in the North Light area. The Commission discussed installing fencing along the beach referenced as “Baby Beach”.

- b.) **Schedule a work date**

Volunteers will meet at the Town Beach parking lot on Monday, June 16, 2014 to install snow fencing.

Act/Finalize Town of New Shoreham Tree Ordinance

Review and clarify questions from the Town Council

The Conservation Commission reviewed and updated answers to the list of questions from the Town Council:

Q. Who would supervise the removal of trees on Town property, the Tree Warden or the road crew? Mr. Leeder said the intention was that the Tree warden would be a resource for the road crew.

A. The Tree Warden would supervise the removal of trees on Town property.

Q. How would the licenses be structured? By the year or by the job? What would the fee be?

A. The licensed arborist is regulated by the State of Rhode Island.

Q. Append a list of native trees (by Hannon, available from the Nature Conservancy?), a list of recommended trees, and a list of trees to avoid planting.

A. See attached list "Index of Common Names".

Q. Consider making the penalty "per tree".

A. The Commission was in consensus on assessing a penalty per tree. The Commission asks the Town Council to set the fee based on the tree replacement cost.

Q. Add language preventing a conflict of interest between the Tree Warden and other professional arborists in business competition. Will the Tree Warden evolve into a paid position? Could a town-employed arborist be the tree warden?

A. The Tree Warden would never be employed to remove a tree. The Tree Warden would not participate in the bidding process to remove a tree. The Tree Warden will not evolve into a paid position. A town-employed arborist could be the Tree Warden if they are a certified arborist.

Q. The Tree Commission's duties should include developing guidelines

- **Develop a process for planting trees on public land. Include a process for neighbors to have a say if they wish but the good of the larger public should also be considered, trees are a public resource. Tree selection should plan for future growth (encroachment on surrounding properties or into views)**

A. The property owners abutting the subject property would be notified before the tree in question is planted. A Public Notice will be posted for a public meeting to be held within 30 days to allow for public discussion, response or to make a comment.

- **Develop a process for removing trees on public lands. Should the impact on surrounding properties (view shed) be a factor? The good of the larger public should be considered, trees are a public resource. Include guidelines**

**for the conservation of valuable wood and the disposition or removal of
chippings and cord wood.**

- A. The Commission decided the wood chippings are the property of the Town. The Commission discussed wood cuttings would be offered to the public.

Approval of Minutes May 13 and May 21, 2014

Mr. Leeder made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hopf to approve the minutes of May 21, 2014 with a minor correction.

7 Ayes (Phillips, Jr., Leeder, Hopf, Roosa, Littlefield, Slate, and Mott) 0 Nays

Mr. Littlefield made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hopf to approve the minutes of May 13, 2014 with a minor correction.

7 Ayes (Phillips, Jr., Leeder, Hopf, Roosa, Littlefield, Slate, and Mott) 0 Nays

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13pm in a motion by Mr. Hopf and seconded by Mr. Phillips, Jr.

7 Ayes (Phillips, Jr., Leeder, Hopf, Roosa, Littlefield, Slate, and Mott) 0 Nays

Respectfully submitted
Teresa L. Chmiel
Administrative Assistant Building and Land Use
Minutes approved: September 9, 2014