

I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Scituate Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2005, and was called to order at 7:01 P.M. It was held in the Building Official's Conference Room, Scituate Town Hall, 195 Danielson Pike, N. Scituate, Rhode Island.

II. ATTENDANCE:

Present: Christopher Modisette – Chair, Thomas Angell, Cynthia Gianfrancesco,

Ruth Strach, Cheryl Dexter and Jon Vernava

Absent: Paul Dolan Public: The Tirrells

III. SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The minutes of the April meeting were accepted as submitted, moved by Mr. Angell, seconded by Ms. Dexter. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

IV. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Tirrell is concerned in regard to the time frame for the conservation easement on his property. The appraiser has just begun the appraisal and there is no information as to when it will be

completed. The Tirrell's have been before the zoning board and are now going before the planning board for review of the subdivision. The subdivision would cut house lots in the front of the property. Chair Modisette provided several conservation easements for the Tirrell's to review.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Financial Reports:

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There was minor discussion on this topic.

2. Property Committee:

The town received a Trail Grant from DEM for boundary signs and trail markers for Lawton Farm and Westconnaug Meadows.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Arbor Day:

Arbor Day was successful; about 85 to 100 people attended the planting ceremony at the Hope Gazebo. Six trees were planted in advance and a flowering dogwood was planted on Arbor Day.

A yellow flowering crab tree was planted at Hope School. A flowering cherry tree was planted in front of the town hall and two trees were

planted in memory of Betty Angellotti.

2. Property Committee:

A NRCS Grant for \$25,000.00 for Lawton Farm maintenance was awarded to the town. Mr. Modisette will respond with a letter regarding this grant.

3. Scenic Highways Update:

The Scenic Highway board did not have a quorum so they were unable to vote on the Scituate application.

VII. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR APPROVAL

1. RIACC:

The Rhode Island Association of Conservation Commissions has reorganized and is attempting to reestablish relationships with local conservation commissions.

2. RIDEM Trails Grant Program:

This program was developed to help promote the enhancement of trail systems. It provides 80% of funding with a 20% match from the town (maximum amount of \$50,000.00); the application deadline is at

the end of June.

The land at Esek Hopkins Grove is owned by DEM but the town has a twenty year lease which will expire in the year 2021. The town could possibly apply for a grant on this site. (This is the same parcel as the middle school proposal.) These trails could possibly connect across to the trails on the west side of Battey Meetinghouse Road and up to the high school. Mr. Modisette and Mr. Angell will investigate this possibility.

3. 2005/2006 PROGRAMS:

Ms. Strach is investigating the Neighbor-to-Neighbor packet.

The commission's website should be up and running in several weeks.

A conservation brochure is in the process of being prepared by Ms. Dexter and Ms. Strach.

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will probably not be held in Scituate this year according to an EcoDepot spokesperson. Mr. Modisette will contact Mr. Iverson to plan a collection day for the future.

The commission has been asked to assume the responsibilities of

Clean and Green Day. Margeaux Morriseau will be invited to attend a meeting to help begin the planning process on this item. Conservation volunteers will also be invited to help.

Mr. Modisette has contacted Mr. Thorsen to inquire about a speech or outing regarding stonewalls. This could be done in conjunction with the Preservation Society possibly to be held in the fall of 2005. Planned walks would include Indian Rock, Lawton Farm, the Brightman Property and Hope Associates Property.

4. LAND ACQUISITION:

Mr. Modisette will meet with the Finance Committee regarding funding for potential parcels.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE:

This topic was briefly discussed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Angell moved to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. seconded by Mr. Vernava. All were in favor. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

WITNESS:

Patricia M. Sperry

Secretary