

# **OFFICIAL COPY**

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

**A meeting of the Scituate Conservation Commission was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, and was called to order at 7:40 P.M. It was held in the School Department Meeting Room, Scituate Town Hall, 195 Danielson Pike, N. Scituate, Rhode Island.**

## **II. ATTENDANCE:**

**Present: Thomas Angell, Paul Dolan, Ruth Strach, Cheryl Dexter, Jon Vernava and**

**Cynthia Gianfrancesco**

**Absent: Tammy Bottella**

**Guests: Christopher Modisette and Walter Powell**

## **III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

**Ms. Strach moved for Mr. Angell to act as chair, seconded by Ms. Gianfrancesco. Nominations were closed. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Dolan nominated Ms. Strach to act as vice-chair, seconded by Ms. Gianfrancesco.**

**Nominations were closed. The secretary cast one ballot for the slate. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

**One member of the commission needs to be appointed to the Land Trust due to the resignation of Mr. Andrew Arkway. Four members of the commission are required to sit on the Land Trust and currently they are one seat short. Ms.Strach nominated Mr. Vernava to take that seat, seconded by Ms. Gianfrancesco. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

#### **IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

**Mr. Vernava moved to accept the December 12, 2006 secretary's report as amended, seconded by Paul Dolan. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

#### **V. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**The financial report has stayed the same. There were no deductions other than the secretary's salary.**

#### **VI. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS:**

**The commission decided to create subcommittees.**

- 1. Annual Meeting – Ruth Strach and Cheryl Dexter**
- 2. Education/Outreach – Neighbor-to-Neighbor – Ruth Strach and**

**Cheryl Dexter**

**3. D.E.M. /Conservation Ordinance and Regulatory Issues – Jon Vernava and Cynthia Gianfrancesco**

**4. Land Acquisition and Property Committee – all Commission members**

**5. Volunteers/Land Stewards – sign up sheets will be available at the Annual Meeting. This will be revisited at the February meeting.**

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

**The Greenspace Meeting will take place on January 31, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Commission members will walk the Lawton Property on January 20, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.**

**The comments to the Planning Commission for the Draft Ordinance will be worked on by Jon Vernava and Cynthia Gianfrancesco.**

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **U.S.D.A. N.R.C.S. W.R.P. PROPOSAL:**

**Mr. Modisette from the Natural Resource Conservation Service**

**(N.R.C.S.) requested the Land Trust's assistance and participation in a Wetlands Reserve Program Conservation Project sponsored by the U.S.D.A-N.R.C.S. This program is a federally funded volunteer program for landowners to voluntarily protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property. The Wetlands Reserve Program would work in conjunction with the N.R.C.S. and other partners to improve or expand easement acquisition and activities associated with wetland restoration, creation, or enhancement. This program provided technical and financial assistance to help landowners with their restoration efforts. To be eligible for this project, the land must be restorable; suitable for wildlife benefits and have had an agricultural history.**

**Ms. Strach moved for the commission to send a letter of intent with no obligation to endorse participation in this project, seconded by Ms. Dexter. Assistance from the Conservation Commission would include:**

- 1. Endorsing participation in the U.S.D.A. N.R.C.S. W.R.P. project.**
- 2. Authorizing the Conservation Commission and Land Trust to serve as lead agencies on behalf on the Town.**
- 3. Serve as a liaison between N.R.C.S., the Town, residents within the project area, and other potential partners.**
- 4. Assist with the coordination of meetings, gathering of pertinent data, maps, etc. that may be required with the project.**

**There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

**The Lawton Farm Bird Vegetation Monitor Study has been completed.**

**There are forty different species of birds on the property. It was recommended in the study that all invasive species be removed and the encroaching areas cleaned up.**

#### **IX. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Literature was received for the America the Beautiful Grant. The town will put together comprehensive plans for the tree ordinance. This will include the care of trees in the villages and rural areas of Scituate. Mr. Dolan will work on this. The grant if awarded will be in the amount of \$4,500.00 with a 60% match.**

**In the 2007/2008 budget, the line item for GIS Mapping will be replaced with the America the Beautiful Grant in the amount of \$3,000.00. Ms Gianfrancesco moved for the commission to pursue the grant for the tree ordinance with allocated funds in the amount of \$3,000.00, seconded by Ms. Dexter. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.**

#### **VI: ADJOURNMENT:**

**Ms. Gianfrancesco moved to adjourn at 8:43 p.m., seconded by Ms. Strach. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion**

**carried.**

**WITNESS:**

**Patricia M. Russo**

**Secretary**