

Tiverton Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 19, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Members present: T. Ramotowski (Chair), N. Cote, R. Guimond, P. Mello (Treasurer)
T. Hilton, J. Grimard

Minutes submitted by: Natalie Cote

I. Public Delegation: None

II. Approval of Minutes: The meeting minutes from October 16, 2013 were approved. Motion made by N. Cote, seconded by P. Mello. Minutes from June 18, 2013 and November 7, 2013, have not submitted.

III. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reports \$405.40 on hand. The Lloyd Center has been paid in full for the 2013 program.

IV. Brief Announcements: Two letters were presented to Commission Members:

- U.S. of the Interior/Fish and Wildlife Service/Endangered Species Act: Information regarding the endangered Rufa, Red Knot, a shorebird and the Northern, Long-Eared Bat, have been put on their endangered list.
- RI Department of Environmental Management: America the Beautiful Letter contained information regarding applications for grants to develop sustainable forestry programs.

V. New Business: The following was discussed:

- Proposed Meeting Dates for 2014: a decision was made that one date will be changed. The proposed February 18, 2014 date will be changed to February 25, 2014.
- Annual Report for Town Council: Chairman Ramotowski will write the report and present it to the Council.

VI. Old Business:

- **Tiverton Landfill/"Storm Debris Storage Area"** R. Guimond reported that the will be discussed during the next Landfill Committee meeting will take place on November 20, 2013. Please refer to Landfill Issues, in the Standing Committees Reports.
- **Review of "Watershed Protection Overlay District" Language/Tiverton Planning Board:** The group is still being formed. T. Hilton, P. Mello, and N. Cote will represent the Conservation Commission.
- **Buzzard Bay Coalition/Requests for Public Comments:** A letter was composed by N. Cote and sent to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in NY. The letter was sent in support of the Buzzard Bay Coalition and the Acushnet River Reserve which is seeking Land Trust Accreditation.

VII. Standing Committee Reports:

- **Town Comprehensive Review:** T. Hilton still awaits update.
- **Litter Prevention Initiatives:** N. Cote reported that Capt. Patrick Jones of the Tiverton Police Department has agreed to act as liaison between the Litter Committee and town police. Next meeting is set for February 4, 2014 @ 6:30. Meetings are held at 73 Muse Way in Sandywoods Farm.
- **Stafford Pond Issues:** Discussion of meeting held on November 7, 2013, with the Stafford Pond Neighborhood Association:
The discussion began with the lawsuit that allegedly took place in the late 1980s. A spokesman for the association claims that the Town cannot regulate what happens on the Pond. However, that may not be the case. Nothing is on record. W. Gerlach, Town Councilor, has requested that the acting Town Administrator locate information regarding this. Franklin Raposa, from the water district will call Attorney Jerry Leary to ask about a court case from that time period which questioned Riparian Rights. The residents of Stafford Pond wanted the town to repay them for town water usage.
- Commission Members question whether the residents around the pond have Riparian Rights. Fall River owns the water that flows over the dam. Commission members were also in agreement that the Pond residents have changed their opinions. We question whether possibly failing septic systems are contributing to Pond problems due to the fact that the testing numbers have not gone down enough.
Dr. Ramotowski is still pursuing the seaplane regulations with the FAA. The Conservation Commission's update on the pond situation is due to the Town Council in December. Our job is to advise the Council and to give recommendations The Commission will meet again with the pond residents again on December 11, 2013.
Other concerns discussed, concerning Stafford Pond: Does the town has the legal right to compose an ordinance that states restrictions and regulations on the pond? Catch basins will need to be maintained and monitored frequently. First responders to a possible oil spill will need to be trained.
- **Fogland Beach Issues:** Dog restrictions have been lax. The restrictions should apply to both the beach and the conservation area.
- **Landfill Issues:** The talk continues regarding the Tiverton landfill becoming a storm debris station for the state. Liquids will be forbidden...who will monitor? The recycling program has resulted in another \$15,000. The next meeting will take place on November 21, 2013.

Meeting was adjourned @ 8:25 PM.