

**Tiverton Conservation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2014
Town Hall, 343 Highland Road, Tiverton, RI**

Chairman Ramotowski called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Members Present: T. Ramotowski (Chair), P. Hilton, L. Cottrell, and R. Guimond.

Members Absent: None.

I. Public Delegations: There were no public delegations.

II. Approval of Minutes: There were no minutes presented for approval.

III. Treasurer's Report: There was no report.

IV. Brief Announcements: None.

V. New Business:

Election of Treasurer: With the resignation of Mr. Mello, the Commission was without a Treasurer. Ms. Cottrell volunteered to serve as Treasurer.

Motion 1: Mr. Guimond moved to designate Ms. Cottrell as the Conservation Commission's Treasurer. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Hilton.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

RI-DEM Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) Initiative and Public Meetings

The DEM WAP Initiative was discussed. Issues with coyotes continue to be reported in Town. The DEM's policy is that problem coyotes should not be shot or poisoned by land owners. In many cases, the land owner can discourage coyotes from foraging near homes, etc., by properly bagging/containing garbage and not allowing small dogs and pets from roaming free.

Tiverton 4-Corners/28 East Road/Watershed Protection Overlay District/Request for Special Permit:

The owners of some of the properties within Tiverton 4-Corners are trying to clean up lingering zoning issues related to their properties, probably in preparation for selling same at some later date.

The Meeting House has an old septic system designed for much lower flows than what would occur under the new proposed uses for the property. It is unclear what the status of

the septic system is for this property with respect to DEM permits. The building is presently used as an art gallery. The new proposed uses include allowing the building to be used for special functions such as wedding receptions, and other social or community events. A special use permit will be required. A special variance for parking will also be sought, because some of the parking for the building will be located on other lots. The proposed use requires 33 parking spaces, but there is room for only 24 on the actual lot. Thus, 9 spaces would have to be located on a different lot, which might work as long as there is one owner for both lots, but if the lots belong to different owners in the future, then what happens?

Mr. Guimond noted that percolation testing was carried out within 25 feet of the boundary of a historical cemetery. He noted that was very close and that often the exact boundaries of such cemeteries are not well known, so digging near them could expose old burials.

Ms. Hilton noted that all of the affected properties were located within the Nonquit Pond Watershed Overlay District. One of the requirements of the Overlay District is that all proposed changes require an environmental impact statement (EIS). To date, an EIS has not been filed for any of the requested changes.

It was noted that there are many septic system issues/failures in this area of Town.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on this matter will take place in Town Hall on December 3, 2014.

Goals for 2015

It was the consensus of the Commission that this item should be deferred until more members were appointed to the Commission.

VI. Old Business:

Review of "Watershed Protection Overlay District" Language/Tiverton Planning Board:

The next meeting regarding this issue will take place in December, 2014.

Town Zoning Ordinance for Earth Removal/Quarrying:

Dr. Ramotowski noted that he had sent a formal letter to the Town Administrator, dated November 22, 2014, requesting information regarding the consultant's review of possible impacts on ground water by the on-going quarrying operations in Town.

Tiverton Crossings Development

The Planning Board continues to work on this issue.

VII. Standing Committee Reports:

Town Comprehensive Plan Review Committee:

There was nothing new to report.

Litter Prevention Initiatives:

There was no report.

Stafford Pond Issues Update:

There was nothing new to report.

Fogland Beach Issues Update:

There was nothing new to report.

Landfill Issues:

Mr. Guimond reported that Pare Engineering estimated the landfill reach its approved height limit sometime in 2017 based upon the current rate of trash generation. That means the landfill could be closed and need to be capped in about 2 years.

Mr. Guimond reported that the Town will waive the “pay-as-you-throw” bag requirement for the week immediately after Christmas. Trash will not need to be placed in the special Town bags for pick up that week.

VIII. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Submitted by:

Dr. T. S. Ramotowski