

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M. THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2011
ROOM 222 CROMWELL TOWN HALL
41 WEST STREET
MINUTES**

Present: Scott Lamberson, John Whitney, Joseph Corlis, Jonathan Pinney

Absent: Joseph Cap, Sairah Sandhu, Ernest Pandolfi

Also Present: Town Engineer Joseph Mazurek

1. Call to Order

Chairman Scott Lamberson called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

2. Roll Call and Seating of Alternates

The Board members stated their names.

John Whitney made a motion to seat Alternate Jonathan Pinney, 2nd by Joseph Corlis.

All in Favor. Motion Passed.

3. Approval of Agenda

Joseph Corlis made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd by John Whitney.

All in Favor. Motion Passed.

4. Town Planner Report:

a. New Residential Subdivisions:

1. "Sunset Ridge" on Pasco Hill Road

Scott Lamberson read Craig Minor's Memo dated 7/8/11 to the members. A brief discussion was held.

Joseph Corlis made a motion to support Craig Minor's recommendation to request a fee in lieu of open space for the proposed subdivision, 2nd by John Whitney.

All in Favor. Motion Passed.

b. Status of Revised Open Space Parcel Descriptions
Reviewed- No Action

5. Old Business:

a. Proposed "Bike/Walking Trail"

Joseph Mazurek presented several large maps with trail and site points of interest descriptions and a packet of maps and details of the proposed project to all those present. He described the project as a historic downtown waterfront development plan with 5 phases of development utilizing potential STEAP grant funds. He said the trails would potentially go from the area across from Mattabasset District where the Gun Club and Cromwell Outboard Association are located and follow the Connecticut River along River Road with the old tank farm building to be converted to an educational center with displays to potentially include the history of the railroad, public safety and local wildlife. He said the facility would accommodate handicap parking and access to the trails and the area would also provide access to the river for kayaking in a location on the river that is relatively

protected and calm. He explained that this trail would go up toward the Rocky Hill border by following the railroad. He said another trail would follow along the south side of Nooks Hill Road to connect with the trail leading along the river to Rocky Hill and another trail potentially to go toward the Town of Berlin border with a few kayak accesses to the Mattabesset River via the launch behind Dunkin Donuts on Shunpike Road and also near Kirby Road in the area behind Wal-Mart. Discussion was held regarding the proposal of the Conservation Commission to include a kayak launch to the river via access from the 65 Berlin Road parcel up for discussion on tonight's agenda. Joseph Mazurek said the State DEP expressed interest in the project as it would create regional development and that the Town has already received \$200,000 in grant money to explore the project's development. Discussion was held on minimizing liability to the Town in case of injury and what the Commission could do to support the project. Board members agreed by consensus that a formal letter of support should be draft and presented to the appropriate Town commissions.

b. Purple Loosestrife Eradication Program

John Whitney reported that the beetles on his land are doing their job, but that it isn't fast enough for him as there is a lot of purple loosestrife to eradicate. Joseph Corlis asked him if the beetles could be transported to the Cromwell Hills Pond and he said he would check on the status of the beetles and let him know.

c. Possible Canoe/Kayak Launch at 65 Berlin Road

The members discussed the site walk meeting they had last week. John Whitney said he called the Tax Assessor to ask what the taxes are on the property are to determine the loss of taxes for the Town and he was told the annual taxes are \$175.80. They all agreed that the site is ideal for a kayak launch provided a set of stairs are install to provide access to the Mattabesset riverside. Discussion with Joseph Mazurek was held regarding the sites appropriateness for another Kayak launch to the river considering the launch by the old Saw Mill Pub might not always be allowed by the property owner if future development of that site occurred. The Board members requested that Craig Minor contact the Mattabassett District to discuss whether people would be allowed access to cross their trunk line for parking etc.

6. New Business

None

7. Farmland Preservation Committee:

a. Discuss "First Report" of the Farmland Preservation Committee

John Whitney said he spoke at the BOS meeting last night and then they (BOS) held a vote accepting the First Report. He also said that Allan Spotts suggested that they include the local farmer's market to give them more exposure.

8. Communications

None

9. Commissioners' Comments

None

10. Public Comments

Brian O'Toole of 40 Court St suggested that the board contact the Cooperative Extension Service to discuss the goal for funds for the Board to buy farmland. John Whitney said he has that figure from them but not with him tonight. Mr. O'Toole also said that he is looking to buy more farmland to grow hay on in Cromwell but that there isn't any available.

11. Approval of Minutes:

a. June 9, 2011

John Whitney made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by Joseph Corlis.

Vote: Yes: John Whitney, Joseph Corlis, Jonathan Pinney

Abstain: Scott Lamberson (not present at minutes meeting)

12. Adjourn

John Whitney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM, 2nd by Joseph Corlis.

All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Sarah A. Voog
Conservation Commission Clerk