

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2007
ROOM 219 CROMWELL TOWN HALL, 41 WEST STREET**

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Laurene McEntire called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. **Roll Call and Seating of Alternates:**
Present: Laurene McEntire, Joseph Corlis, Lu Landis, Anthony Varricchio Jr., and Craig Minor. Joseph Corlis introduced the members to Richard Newton, liaison appointed by the Board of Selectmen to the Conservation Commission.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Lu Landis asked the commission members to consider adding under **#7, Communications**, a letter received from Susan Dean, Secretary of the Killingworth Conservation Commission. Also, Laurene McEntire requested to add to the agenda under **#4, Town Planner Report: 4b. Rockfall Foundation Grant Application**, and **4c. Approve 2008 Calendar of Meeting Dates**. A **motion** was made by Anthony Varricchio Jr. to approve the amended agenda and **seconded** by Lu Landis. All were in favor. *Motion passed.*
4. **Town Planner Report:**
 - a. Pending P&Z and IWWA Applications:
No new applications have come in since last month.
 - b. Rockfall Foundation Grant Application:
This application was submitted as requested and the members were given a copy of the completed and signed application. Craig Minor reported that he has already been contacted by several Central Connecticut State University students who are interested in working on the project whether or not we are awarded the grant. No action is required at this time.
 - c. Approve 2008 Calendar of Meeting Dates:
The Connecticut Freedom of Information Act requires that the time, date and location of all regular meeting be filed with the Secretary of the State at least 30 days prior to any such regular meeting. Craig Minor reviewed the 2008 Calendar with the commission members. The meeting dates are scheduled for the second Monday of each month with two exceptions for the Columbus Day and Veterans' Day holidays. These meetings will be held on the next Monday following the holiday. A **motion** was made by Lu Landis and **seconded** by Joseph Corlis to approve the 2008 Calendar. All were in favor. *Motion passed.*

5. Old Business:

a. Report on “Evergreen Hill Park”:

Anthony Varricchio Jr. reported that not much has occurred. He would like to ask the new Administration to take out the parking lot off Evergreen Road, as it is not in the original plan for the park. It takes away from the beauty of the land. Also, rocks were removed that were to line the street to prevent cars from going on the property. Laurene McEntire also recalled that they were told to keep the rocks to use as borders along the street. Richard Newton requested that Anthony Varricchio Jr. write a letter to the Board of Selectmen with his requests and to cc him a copy of the letter. Mr. Varricchio also reported that the fields look good for winter sledding and would also like to start the ball rolling again on spring fund-raisers, and improvements to the back lot along with the addition of picnic tables as recommended under the Conservation Commission’s survey for the park. Lu Landis commented that this sounds very encouraging.

b. Report on “Cromwell Hills” detention pond dredging project:

Joseph Corlis reported that the detention pond would not be dredged at all. The Board of Directors picked a new landscaper, Krause Landscaping out of Wethersfield, will come in with a crew of four working around the weather on a regular basis cutting the grass, trimming bushes and removing stumps. Plantings will also be added in and around the pond. The Board of Directors will be working with the landscaper and Wendy Goodfriend of the CT River Costal Conservation to discuss a plan for what plants would be most suitable for the ponds and the placement of them. Joseph Corlis said that the area looks like a mess and lot of work needs to be done. They received a 2.5 million dollar loan for improvements for the complex as part of their capital plan.

c. Conservation Easement Monitoring:

Craig Minor suggested to the members to accept and review the changes made by him at the request of the commission at the October 15th meeting for next months meeting. Also he will have additional changes for the commission’s consideration of the *draft* Cromwell Conservation Commission Conservation Easement Management Manual. The members discussed the draft and made several comments and additional changes. Craig Minor asked Laurene McEntire to e-mail him these changes for review at next months meeting. Anthony Varricchio Jr. suggested reviewing the *draft* from page 12 on for discussion at next months meeting. Mr. Varricchio also commented that the preparation of this document was a lot of work and Mr. Minor has done a very good job.

d. Open Space Plan:

Laurene McEntire reviewed Open Space Plan last revised on September 15, 2007 and drafted a “Trail & Greenway System” section to be added to the Open Space Plan. A copy was given to each member to review as a homework assignment and to e-mail

any changes to Craig Minor for discussion at next months meeting. The commission discussed different areas of open space in town and the possibility of creating greenways. Lu Landis commented that this has been her goal to have a Trail and Greenway system and this is a good start. Funding recommendations are also needed for the Plan. Lu Landis asked Craig minor to place a reminder in the agenda package for the members when there is a homework assignment. Mr. Minor agreed.

6. **New Business:**

a. Draft Connecticut Costal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) Plan: Laurene McEntire had no comments at this time but said the *draft* CELCP Plan was great and was pleased to see Cromwell was listed in it and would like to add it to the Open Space Plan or at lease refer to it. Craig Minor asked the members to send him any comments and he will add this to the Open Space Plan for review at next months meeting.

7. **Communications:**

a. Letter from Susan Dean, Secretary of the Killingworth Conservation Commission: Lu Landis read the letter from Susan Dean expressing her eagerness to share concerns, ideas and resources with the Cromwell Conservation Commission, inviting our members to attend a KCC meeting. Laurene McEntire asked Craig Minor to prepare a draft reply letter for the commission to review for their signature for next months meeting.

8. **Commissioners Comments:**

a. Conservation Commission Planning with Cromwell's New Administration: The commission members expressed that they are looking forward to working positively with First Selectmen, Jeremy Shingleton and would like to invite him to attend the commission's next meeting and also give him copies of commission's reports. A **motion** was made by Anthony Varricchio Jr., **seconded** by Lu Landis, to send a letter to First Selectmen Jeremy Shingleton to invite him to the next meeting to introduce the commission members and projects, specifying Evergreen Hill Park. All were in favor. *Motion Passed.*

Also discussed was the need for more commission members. The commission is required to have five regular members and two alternates. Currently there are three regular members and one alternate. Richard Newton commented on the vacancies and said he would be an advocate for new members. Laurene McEntire suggested putting an article in the Cromwell Chronicle stating that the commission is looking for new members. Anthony Varricchio Jr. said he would draft an article for the commission's review for next meeting.

- b. CACIWC Conference:
The members discussed what they learned from the conference and expressed that the conference was vary good, a lot was learned and it was good to talk to others on the same issues.
9. **Public Comments:** None.
10. **Approval of Minutes:**
A **motion** was made by Lu Landis, **seconded** by Anthony Varricchio Jr. and it was *unanimously approved* to approve the minutes of October 15, 2007. All were in favor. *Motion passed.*
- Anthony Varricchio Jr. thanked Richard Newton for attending the meeting. Mr. Newton replied that he will try to come to each months meeting and carry the commission's message back to the Board of Selectmen and would help the commission in their efforts. Laurene McEntire commented that the Conservation Commission is very happy to have Richard Newton as its liaison.
11. **Adjourn:**
A **motion** was made by Anthony Varricchio Jr., **seconded** by Joseph Corlis to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. All were in favor. *Motion passed*

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Janik
Clerk

11/26/2007