

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Jan. 9, 2017, 7:30 P.M.
MEETING ROOM B MADISON TOWN CAMPUS**

Subject to approval: Minutes of the Meeting of Jan. 9, 2017 - 7:30 p.m. - Meeting Room B- Madison Town Campus

Members present: Chairman Heather Crawford, Vice Chairman Christine Bouchard, George McManus, Alex Cushing, Richard Gedney, and Rachel Klein.

Members absent: Clyde Burkhardt.

Additional attendees: Inland Wetlands Officer Robert Kuchta.

1. **Call meeting to order:** At 7:31 p.m., Chairman Crawford called the meeting to order.
2. **Call for additional agenda items:** Richard Gedney asked that the subject of tree cutting be placed on the agenda; it was added to item six on the agenda.
3. **Election of Officers:** Chairman Crawford stated that three officers have to be elected—chairman, vice chairman, and secretary/treasurer.

Commissioner George McManus nominated Heather Crawford to be chairman; it was seconded by Commissioner Gedney; Commissioner McManus nominated Christine Bouchard to be vice chairman; it was seconded by Commissioner Alex Cushing; Commissioner Crawford nominated Commissioner Cushing to be secretary/treasurer; it was seconded by Commissioner Gedney. Vote was unanimously in favor of all nominations.

Vote to accept the slate of officers as nominated passed, 6-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Commissioners Crawford, Bouchard, Cushing, Gedney, Klein, and McManus.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

4. **Update on the status of applications 16-23 and 16-24, 4 Boston Post Road.** Chairman Crawford reported that the 4 Boston Post Road applications have been withdrawn so they can be completely reconfigured.
5. **Update on various proposals before IWA.** Chairman Crawford stated that she had received the information from Inland Wetlands Officer Robert Kuchta that an application has been submitted to do an herbicide application on Hummers Pond, Lovers Lane. Chairman Crawford stated that it is an activity regulated by the state. Work is expected to be done in the summer on the pond, according to Mr. Kuchta.
6. **Other Project/Issue Updates**
 - ~ **Boundary documentation project:** Work is expected to begin again in March or April.
 - ~ **Additional Public Education/Outreach for 2016-17: Facebook page, newspaper articles:** Vice Chairman Bouchard stated that the Facebook page is receiving a lot of posts. Chairman Crawford stated that the dark sky issue is not a brand new idea; a book called *Lights Out* was published on the subject in the year 2000. Chairman Crawford is expected to look into the possibility of buying a

couple of books on the topic to give to the library.

~ **Invasive species:** Chairman Crawford stated that she found another instance of invasive bamboo being planted and growing near a property line; it seems the idea is to create a screen with it. Invasive bamboo plants are not allowed by the state of Connecticut.

~ **Hammonasset River:** No report.

~ **Tree Cutting:** Discussion centered on whether the town has any regulations governing the clear cutting of trees on private property; trees have been felled on property on Liberty Street. Madison has no restrictions on tree cutting. Commissioner Gedney stated he would like to review what other towns have for restrictions.

7. **Natural Resource Inventory:** An intern had assisted with this project, and one of the state requirements is that it be updated. Chairman Crawford stated that the town of Guilford has an excellent example; Woodstock also has one. Commissioners are expected to review the Guilford and Woodstock inventories, so work may be able to resume on the Madison inventory.

8. **Review and approve minutes for Dec. 12, 2016 meeting.**

Commissioner McManus made the motion to accept the Dec. 12, 2016 minutes, as submitted; it was seconded by Vice Chairman Bouchard and unanimously approved.

Vote to approve the Dec. 12, 2016 minutes passed, 6-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Crawford, Vice Chairman Bouchard and Commissioners Gedney, Cushing, McManus, and Klein.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

11. **Adjournment:**

Vice Chairman Bouchard made the motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.; it was seconded by Chairman Crawford and unanimously approved.

Vote to adjourn passed unanimously, 6-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Crawford, Vice Chairman Bouchard and Commissioners Gedney, Cushing, Klein, and McManus.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene H. Kennedy, clerk