

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

February 22, 2016

7:30 PM – Meeting Room D – Madison Town Campus

Members Present: Chairman Heather Crawford, Richard Gedney, Christine Bouchard, George McManus, Joan O’Neill and Clyde Burkhardt.

Members Absent: Kealoha Freidenburg.

1) Meeting called to order: At approximately 7:35 pm, Chairman Crawford called the meeting to order.

2) Call for additional agenda items: None.

3) Report on meetings attended: H. Crawford reported that Kealoha had attended the January IWA meeting, when the Sterling Park application (15-19) was approved with strenuous conditions. Members were pleased to hear that the IWA had addressed the Commission’s comments. The Middle Beach Road West application (15-27) was also approved at this IWA meeting; the IWA had regarded the Commission’s recommendations with this project as well.

At this time H. Crawford informed the Commission that Kealoha has received an invitation to join the IWA as an alternate, a position she will likely accept.

4) Project/Issue Updates

Residential Lighting:

- H. Crawford reported that Leo Smith of the International Dark-Sky Association will give a presentation during the Planning and Zoning Commission’s April 7th meeting. The hope is to incite a discussion about the importance of dark-sky and the prospect of establishing Town regulations. Several other committees will be invited to attend; J. O’Neill suggested they invite the New Haven Astronomical Society. H. Crawford stated it will be posted in the newspaper and the Madison webpage.

Boundary Documentation:

- J. O’Neill reported that she has a copy of a survey of Guildford Land Trust property over which the Madison Land Trust has an easement; they are in the process of locating the boundary marker for this. At this time, J. O’Neill requested permission to participate with the Commission on a volunteer basis once she resigns; her request was accepted wholeheartedly by consensus.

Public Education/Outreach for 2016: The following topics were discussed:

- H. Crawford will give a climate change talk for the Garden Club on 4/20/16; this will be open to the public and should tie-in well with Madison's "Green-up Clean-up," which will be held the weekend of 4/23/16.
- Bauer Park Festival
- Native milkweed and monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*).
- Networking
 - Students, e.g. environmental clubs; invite/encourage students to attend meetings, etc.; "honorary student"/student advocate
 - Boy/Girl Scouts
 - Newcomers Club – presentations

Identification of potential Commission members: A list of potential members has been generated and will be sent to the appropriate persons for nomination.

5) Discussion of 2016 budget.

The following ideas were discussed:

- GIS
- Presentations
- Apparel- Town logo, green/khaki, "Madison Conservation Commission"
- Field/electronic equipment (must be approved by IT Dept.)
- Buy books/magazines for students
- Water bottle fountain for school(s)
- Large (wall-sized) map of Madison for reference during meetings
- H2O quality testing equipment—setting up a citizen program for water monitoring

6) Approval of minutes:

- January 25, 2016

The minutes were reviewed and the following amendments were made: 1) on page 2, 3rd bullet, "tow of slope" should read "toe of slope" and 2) the correct spelling of "Milberne" is "Milburne".

Motion: G. McManus moved to approve the minutes of January 25, 2016 as amended. C. Bouchard seconded.

Vote: all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

7) Adjournment:

At 8:34 pm, J. O'Neill moved for adjournment; C. Burkhardt seconded.

Vote: all in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Shauna Dowd

*amendments to these minutes will be noted in future minutes.