

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Sept. 12, 2016 7:30 P.M.
MEETING ROOM B MADISON TOWN CAMPUS**

Subject to approval: Minutes of the Meeting of Sept. 12, 2016 - 7:30 p.m. - Meeting Room B- Madison Town Campus

Members present: Chairman Heather Crawford, Vice Chairman Christine Bouchard, George McManus, Alex Cushing, and Clyde Burkhardt.

Members absent: Rachel Klein and Richard Gedney.

Additional attendees: None.

1. **Call meeting to order:** At 7:31 p.m., Chairman Crawford called the meeting to order.
2. **Call for additional agenda items:** None.
3. **Planning for Bauer Park Festival ~ Update on light pollution and horseshoe crab displays:** Chairman Crawford reported that she is working on the horseshoe crab displays. She asked commissioners to formulate ideas for handouts or incentives to have guests at the fair visit the Conservation Commission. Vice Chairman Christine Bouchard stated there are a few bracelets and magnifiers remaining from previous years. Ideas for handouts should be brought forward at the next Conservation Commission meeting, Chairman Crawford stated, and she asked Vice Chairman Bouchard to purchase about 200 to 300 more magnifiers, because they are something children will use frequently.
4. **Review of material on outdoor wood burning furnaces for potential town regulation:** Chairman Crawford reported that she sent the commissioners a lengthy report on outdoor wood burning furnaces; the Environmental and Human Health Institute is pushing for all towns to have ordinances which would ban the furnaces. Vice Chairman Bouchard stated that the report reveals that doors and windows do not block the smoke, and the carcinogens are extremely harmful. Chairman Crawford stated that wood burning stoves have catalytic converters which prevent the smoke from moving outside of the chimney and into the environment. Commissioner Clyde Burkhardt stated that the solution seems to be to require wood burning furnaces to have catalytic converters, but no one on the commission knew whether they are manufactured with the converters. There is at least one wood burning furnace, possibly three, operating in Madison, according to Chairman Crawford. Since this is a matter that will be heard before the Planning and Zoning Commission, Chairman Crawford stated that a letter should be sent to that commission recommending that the Planning and Zoning Commission be advised of the potential significant health hazards to humans, animals, and the environment, from non-controlled wood burning units, and the letter will recommend that there should be a ban on operating these units, unless the impacts can be minimized, for instance, with catalytic converters or other technology. Pressure-treated wood would be disastrous to use in the furnaces, Chairman Crawford stated. Nineteen towns have banned outdoor wood burning furnaces, according to Chairman Crawford, who would like to check to see whether there is advanced technology on the units that would prevent the pollution and the smoke from entering the environment.
5. **Project/Issue Updates**

~ **Residential and street lighting: Town fixture replacement and presentation update:** This

project is in progress; there is no additional report.

~ **Boundary documentation update:** This project is still under way; no further report.

~ **Public education/outreach for 2016:** Vice Chairman Bouchard has made the Conservation Commission Facebook page, but she still needs images to put up, especially for the opening page banner photograph. Commissioner McManus suggested a panoramic shot of Fence Creek would work well across the top of the opening page. Chairman Crawford stated she will submit some photos to be used. Vice Chairman Bouchard stated that she will get in touch with other local environmental groups for some assistance with postings, such as photos, and the upcoming Bauer Festival will be a photo opportunity.

~ **Invasive species monitoring:** There are a couple of upcoming symposiums commissioners could consider attending, to learn more about invasive species.

6. **Update on Hammonasset River bank clearing violation and upcoming applications:** The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency is hearing about this violation; a private property owner cleared trees and the river bank on land owned by the Madison Land Trust. A lawyer is representing the Land Trust, according to Chairman Crawford. It is an enormous width that has been cleared, and the damage has come not only from the value of the trees that were removed, but also from the fact that the bank got destroyed and graded down to the river's water, Chairman Crawford stated. The fine for the damage will be five times the damages, and the costs for the trees will be astronomical, since no one can replace 140 year-old oak trees; this is going to be a long and complicated process, Chairman Crawford stated. The state of Maryland's restrictions against such activities are so tight, that no one would even consider clearing land in such a fashion, according to Commissioner McManus. Chairman Crawford stated that there are upcoming coastal access applications which will be coming before the Conservation Commission at the commission's next September meeting.

7. **Review and approve minutes from Aug. 8, 2016 and July 11, 2016 meetings:**

Commissioner McManus made the motion to approve the July 11, 2016 minutes, as submitted, and it was seconded by Commissioner Burkhardt; Commissioner Burkhardt made the motion to approve the Aug. 8, 2016 minutes, as submitted, and it was seconded by Commissioner McManus; both were unanimously approved.

Vote to approve July 11, 2016 and Aug. 8, 2016 minutes as submitted passed, 5-0-0.

IN FAVOR: Chairman Crawford, Vice Chairman Bouchard and Commissioners Burkhardt, Alex Cushing, and McManus.

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

7. **Adjournment:**

Commissioner McManus made the motion to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.; it was seconded by Commissioner Burkhardt and unanimously approved.

Vote to adjourn passed unanimously, 5-0-0.

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

OPPOSED: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene H. Kennedy, clerk