

**NORWALK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**JUNE 18, 2003**

**ATTENDANCE:** MATT CAPUTO, VICE CHAIRMAN; MARNY SMITH; ANN

CAGNINA; ANDY KYDES; JANE  
CORCILLO;

ED HOLOWINKO; LARRY LOSIO,  
(arrived at 6:30pm)

**STAFF:** ALEXIS CHERICHETTI, SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
OFFICER; ERIN LEONARD, CONSERVATION STAFF

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

**DISCUSSION**

**A. INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES REGULATIONS**

- Question was raised as to whether or not the Commission as an Inland Wetland Agency could use health issues as a reason to approve or deny applications.
- The language of the regulations allows the Commission to consider "Public" Health as it directly relates to the proposed regulated activity.

**A. PUBLIC EDUCATION**

- Commissioner Corcillo suggested writing an article that relates to homeowners and wetlands that would include the following:
- The 'Action Plan' read as follows:
  1. What is a wetland?
  2. Do I have wetlands on my property?
  3. Why do you need permits?
  4. How much are permits? Why do we charge fees?
  5. Why we are increasing fees?
- Commissioner Corcillo also asked Alexis to get her some background information and offered to write the article.

- Commissioner Marny Smith suggested that perhaps we could turn the septic brochure into an article.
- Commissioner Jane Corcillo replied that that the Hour has a fall "Home Improvement" section that might be a nice tie-in.

#### A. OPEN SPACE

- Commissioner Losio asked what definitions were found from other towns.
- Alexis Cherichetti explained that no straight definition was available She also stated that it seems that other towns use objectives to describe what open space is.
- Commissioner Losio and the rest of the Commission agreed that maybe they should begin listing objectives in open space and a definition may follow.
- Commissioner Losio began a list of stream-of-consciousness objectives from the Commission:

1. preserve and protect the natural resources (air, land, water, wildlife), create and protect habitat.
2. aesthetics – "quiet beauty"
  - a. visual
  - b. audial
1. maintain ties with Norwalk's past and heritage
2. "Vest pocket parks" in urban areas
3. Public Access to open space in support of quality of life
  - a. active
  - b. passive
1. Open Space corridors (connectivity)

- Alexis Cherichetti handed out the copies of the City of Norwalk Open Space Attribute sheet for review. She also made copies of page 23 of the Handbook for Conservation Commissioners that showed possible objectives in preserving Open Space.
- Commissioner Corsillo suggested that maybe the overall goal of Open Space is to preserve and protect the quality of life in Norwalk by having all the previously mentioned objectives.
- The Commission seemed to agree that that was accurate.
- Commissioner Losio decided that the Commission should read over page 23 of the handbook and eliminate those objectives that don't apply to Norwalk.
- The objectives eliminated were #10, #11, and #12.

- Next Commissioner Losio asked the Commission to look at the Open Space Attribute Sheet topics and determine which types are relevant to the objectives already stated.
- Those found pertinent :
  - a. connecting open space
  - b. environmentally sensitive resources
  - c. historic and cultural places
  - d. Long Island Sound – a unique natural feature
  - e. Open Space through redevelopment
  - f. Recreation
  - g. Rivers and streams, including Norwalk River and its tributaries
  - h. Watershed is covered through the water quality objective
- The only additional thoughts from the attributes that were to be included in the objective list are as follows:
  - a. Long Island Sound – it's a unique natural feature
  - b. Rivers and streams – including Norwalk River and its tributaries
- Commissioner Losio believed that this is a good start in listing objectives. Next would be a good idea to have a couple of Commissioners draft the objectives up in some sort of format so that the rest of the Commission could review.

#### **D. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- a. May 20, 2003
- Commissioner Corsillo motioned to accept the minutes of May 20, 2003.
- Commissioner Cagnina seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

#### **E. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52PM.

6/17/03

Minutes recorded by Conservation Staff