

# **TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the South Kingstown Conservation Commission was held in the Town Council Chambers on Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

## A. Roll Call

Loomis – absent	Johnson – present	Boardman – present
Gates – present	Dickinson - present	Flanders – present
Wettlaufer - present		

## B. Approval of Minutes of March 3, 2010

Johnson moved, Flanders seconded; motion carried: "To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 3, 2010 as presented."

**VOTE:** Flanders - aye Dickinson – aye Johnson – aye Gates – aye  
Wettlaufer – aye

## C. Coastal Applications

### 1. Richard Goodwin, 461 Gooseberry Rd., AP 88-1, Lot 62

Neither the applicant nor a representative was present to discuss the proposal. Mr. Flanders noted that the design will incorporate hanging cages. Discussion ensued regarding potential bio-fouling impacts.

Johnson moved, Gates seconded; motion carried: "To continue this item to the next regular meeting. Further, to direct the Principal Planner to request an extension from CRMC to the public notice period."

**VOTE:** Flanders – aye Wettlaufer – aye Dickinson – aye Johnson aye  
Gates – aye

## D. Special Items

### 1. Comprehensive Community Plan Issues

Ms. Boardman briefly summarized her recent interview with the Town consultants regarding the 2010 Comprehensive Plan update. She noted that there are some items within the Plan where the Conservation Commission is identified as a responsible party but has not played as active a role as it might.

Discussion ensued regarding the Commission role in acquisition of open space within the Town. Mr. Nickerson reviewed the existing process including the municipal involvement in the Open Space Partnership. There was a consensus that Mr. Gates be designated as the primary liaison for the Commission with the Partnership. Mr. Flanders will serve as the secondary contact.

Mr. Flanders stated that the Comprehensive Plan section that deals with establishment of a volunteer network should specifically note the R.I. Tree Council as a potential involved party.

Discussion ensued regarding the Plan item addressing development of indigenous habitat mapping. Mr. Nickerson indicated the Town and/or State probably has those coverages available through GIS. He will research the matter and report to the Commission next month.

Mr. Gates inquired as to the status of efforts to have the Conservation Commission designated as Environmental Advocate for the Town. Mr. Nickerson will investigate this matter and report findings to the Commission.

Mr. Nickerson will prepare a revised report card to identify items where the Commission is noted as a responsible party. The document will note status such as items on-going, complete and not addressed to date.

Mr. Gates reiterated the need to place Plan items in a priority that is manageable. Discussion ensued concerning this matter. It was decided that the Principal Planner will research establishment of a river corridor overlay district, as well as, investigate example of freshwater lake management plans that might serve as a template for local communities.

#### E. Renewable Energy Resources

Mr. Nickerson provided a status of on-going grant procurement efforts. He summarized a memorandum from the Director of Planning to Town Manager, dated March 4, 2010 that outlines upcoming Town efforts regarding available Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program funding. He noted that the Town would be a partner with Washington County Regional Planning Commission in a competitive grant application.

He stated that the Town will receive \$273,067 under the determined grant formula for one pot of the EECDBG funds. In addition the Town will receive \$18,960 for energy performance contracting. Town staff has prepared a draft Request for Qualifications intended to solicit interest from Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) to undertake an audit and identify energy reduction and saving strategies for municipal buildings, including the schools.

#### F. Tree Board

Mr. Flanders noted that the illegal sign posted on the public tree located at 791 Curtis Corner Rd. is still in place. Mr. Nickerson will contact the Tree Warden regarding this matter.

Mr. Flanders stated that twelve towns submitted 'America the Beautiful' grant applications totaling \$46,000. He informed members that \$30,000 in grant funds are available for dispersal.

#### G. Wastewater Management

The Principal Planner distributed copies of the most recent OWTS inspection status matrix. He noted that he would be meeting with Public Works Department staff next week to ensure OWTS inspection notice mailings for Year 6 will be sent out by late April or early May at the latest.

#### H. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

#### I. Other Matters / Comments

Mr. Nickerson summarized a message from Governor Carcieri that outlines available flood recovery resources available to assist property owners and citizens, including the establishment of FEMA mobile disaster recovery centers. He noted that there will be a meeting next week with the Office of Housing and Community Development regarding the possible availability of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for eligible residents adversely impacted by the recent flood events.

Mr. Gates suggested that the Town consider incorporating measures within the Zoning Ordinance that would promote renewable energy. He also recommended that the Town undertake a thorough review of renewable energy possibilities within municipal buildings.

Mr. Flanders recommended the Town work with existing waste haulers to expand collection of plastic re-cycle materials.

Mr. Dickinson suggested that the Town should investigate ways to better promote the re-cycling of materials. He noted that better logistics and a more pro-active educational outreach program are two strategies that could assist in achieving a more comprehensive and effective re-cycling effort.

Mr. Gates stated there appears to be a need to better educate the public regarding proper disposal of household hazardous waste.

J. Adjournment

Johnson moved, Flanders seconded; motion carried: "To Adjourn".

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.