

TOWN OF GRANBY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 5, 2012

PRESENT: Neil Hornish, Anna Sogliuzzo, and Carolyn Flint

Also present were Mr. Carl Peters, Mr. Mark Fiorentino, and Mr. Mark Lockwood.

Both Mr. Fiorentino and Mr. Lockwood are Granby residents who will be members of the Conservation Commission after they are sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Mr. Francis Armentano, Community Development Director for the Town of Granby, was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by Chairman Hornish.

NOVEMBER 17, 2011 MINUTES:

The minutes from the December 1, 2011 meeting were reviewed by the Commission.

ON A MOTION by Ms. Sogliuzzo, seconded by Ms. Flint, the minutes from the December 1, 2011 Conservation Commission meeting were approved on a (3-0-0) vote.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY (NRI):

Ms. Flint suggested a draft of the NRI be sent to the Salmon Brook Watershed Association and the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission for review as well. Chairman Hornish will send the draft to both of these parties for review.

Mr. Francis Armentano attended the Commission meeting to provide comments on the Natural Resource Inventory. The following highlights Mr. Armentano's suggestions:

- Mr. Armentano suggested the NRI stress the work that has already been done to preserve areas of open space in Granby. The document should highlight the linkages made between open space areas and the importance of continuing to create such linkages. Perhaps the Commission should create an introduction to the NRI which could include Granby's great accomplishments related to conservation, including Bushy Hill Orchard and the Davis Farm conservation projects. The NRI should promote how conservation – minded Granby is, Mr. Armentano stated.
- The maps in the NRI are fair but they're not as accurate as the Town's GIS maps. Mr. Armentano offered to work with Chairman Hornish to supply new maps for the NRI which highlight the Town's conservation easements as well as other characteristics. Mr. Armentano also volunteered to work with the Commission to review the GIS maps to determine the acreage of farmland and forestland in Granby.

- Mr. Armentano clarified Public Act 490 (PA 490) in that it does not protect land. Instead, PA 490 is a mechanism to stop people from being forced to sell their land by committing to not developing for ten years in exchange for lower tax rates. Land under PA 490 is not protected indefinitely.
- The recommendations made in the NRI should be reviewed. Mr. Armentano stated that some of the recommendations have already been done.
- Regarding the Yale Development Study, Mr. Armentano commented that between 2002 and 2011 283 new homes were built. About 300 acres of land was developed for these properties; however, through the use of cluster development, these developments also preserved a significant portion of land. Whenever a development is proposed in Granby, the Community Development Department looks for linkages to preserve open space through cluster development. The Yale Study predicted that 553 acres of land in Granby would be developed over a 20-year period starting in 2002.

POSSIBLE COMMISSION PROJECTS:

The Commission spoke with Mr. Peters; Mr. Fiorentino; and Mr. Lockwood about the list of projects the Commission is interested in working on once the NRI is completed. These projects include a wildlife inventory study coordinated with the DEEP, mapping the conservation easements in Town, and creating a 'one-stop shop' listing of trails in Granby.

RESPONSE FROM DEEP REGARDING ENDER'S STATE FOREST:

Chairman Hornish reviewed the letter with the Commission. The DEEP thanked the Commission for their comments but would not be including the letter in the study's appendix. Instead, the DEEP will keep their letter on file.

GRANBY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISPLAY:

The Commission will be creating a display in the Granby Public Library for the month of January. Ms. Sogliuzzo and Chairman Hornish will put the display together on Saturday, January 7th if other Commissioners would like to help. Ms. Flint provided photos from the Granby Camera Club to display scenic areas in Granby.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

ON A MOTION by Carolyn Flint, seconded by Anna Sogliuzzo, the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm on a (3-0-0) vote.

Conservation Commission
January 5, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Leveille
Recording Secretary