

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

JANUARY 9, 2014

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on January 9, 2014. Present were: Linda Eastman, Robert Zuleger, Christopher Grube, Sandra Bockes and Daniel Novak who arrived at 8:45 P.M. Absent: Clifton Sundelin and Claudia Chappelle.

Eastman called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

Zuleger noted the new windows and weatherstripping in the Town Hall and said he applauded the energy-saving efforts by the town.

The next Big River meeting is Sunday, January 12, at 6:30 P.M.

MEMORIAL DAY: There was discussion on a possible float for the parade.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Bockes mentioned the letter that had been sent out to inform people of the meetings having to do with budget discussions.

Zuleger stated that signs have recently gone up on a large piece of property for sale on Hopkins Hill and Henry Brown Roads. It was mentioned that there are quite a lot of houses for sale in town.

ANIMAL SIGHTINGS: Zuleger said that he had seen three otters in Tarbox Pond and that this was the first time in a number of years that he had seen them.

MINUTES: Grube moved to accept the Minutes as written. Eastman seconded. Voted: Eastman, Grube and Bockes - Aye; Zuleger - Abstain.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was none.

LAND TRUST: Eastman attended the meeting, but there was no quorum so nothing could get resolved or voted upon.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There were two expenses of \$40.38 and \$19.95, so the balance is \$1,431.71. (Report had been phoned to the Secretary.)

BIG RIVER: The amount of trash is disgusting. The last meeting was cancelled.

RHODE MAP RI: Novak attended their meeting tonight. They are thinking about where the growth centers should be in the state and that there should be more flexibility in housing. They question how to preserve the environment and still make Rhode Island viable.

SUMMIT: The Summit will be on March 8 starting at 7:45 A.M. Reservations need to be in before February 21 in order to get the lower price of \$40.00.

WORK PLAN: Everyone should think about it.

WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN: This is a plan to protect animals and plants throughout the state.

EARTH DAY: Lots of trash and tires are being dumped in Big River, and people are bypassing the barriers and making new roads to the interior areas. They have moved boulders and are getting in with large vehicles. There is a lack of enforcement. Due to the fact that April 19 is the day before Easter this year, April 26 was chosen for the Clean Up.

RECYCLING: Zuleger stated that the towns recycling went up by 15%, so we got a larger check from the state this time. He stated that his 11-year old son makes money scrapping metal and was able to get enough for an Alaska trip.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:35 P.M. Grube seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

FEBRUARY 6, 2014

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on February 6, 2014. present were: Daniel Novak, Clifton Sundlin, Robert Zuleger and Christopher Grube. Absent: Linda Eastman, Claudia Chapelle and Sandra Bockes. Also present: Peter Gengler of the New England Mountain Bike Association.

Novak called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

There were no requests for advisory board reviews.

OBSERVATIONS: Novak noted the recent West Virginia chemical spill and river pollution in North Carolina. The danger to natural resources especially water supplies, from under regulated industry was discussed.

Mr. Gengler noted a 75 acre parcel near the Cardi property currently on the market. The property includes wetlands but could be developed. Mr. Gengler also noted that the New England Mountain Bike Association will host a seminar on sustainable trail building. The seminar will be presented by the International Mountain Bike Association.

MINUTES: Zuleger moved to accept the minutes as written. Grube seconded. Voted: Novak- Aye; Sundlin- abstain.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was none

TOWN BOARDS: there were no Town Board updates.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The balance remains at: 1431.71

Novak noted funds will be needed for: The Rhode Island Association of Conservation Commissions annual dues and registration for the Statewide Land and Water Conservation Summit on March 8, 2014.

Earth Day clean up lunch, shirts, Mishnock Barn fee, office supplies, printing etc.

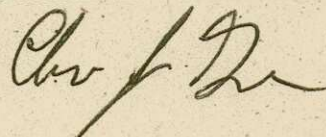
Sundlin made a motion to level fund the budget. The request for fiscal year 2014-15 will be 1200.00. Zuleger seconded. Voted: Novak, Grube - Aye.

BIG RIVER: The need for more public involvement with the area as well as volunteers for the April 26 Earth Day Clean up was discussed. It was noted that illegal dumping continues and the public should report suspicious activity to the D.E.M.

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP: Mr. Gengler reports several tire dump sites in the Big River area and large quantities of wire insulation on New London Tpke. Mr. Zuleger reported a boat at the exit 7 Park and Ride. The annual Earth Day Clean up will commence at 8:00 AM at the exit 6A Park and Ride. Volunteers will be served lunch at the Mishnock Barn afterward.

Zuleger moved to adjourn at 8:45 PM. Grube seconded. Voted: unanimously 4-0 Aye.

Christopher Grube, acting Secretary WGCC
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**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MARCH 6, 2014

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on March 6, 2014. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Robert Zuleger, Christopher Grube, Claudia Chappelle and Sandra Bockes. No absentees.

Novak called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: The extreme weather of this past winter was discussed.

MINUTES: Novak moved to accept the Minutes as written. Sundelin seconded. Voted: Novak, Sundelin, Zuleger and Grube - Aye; Eastman, Chappelle and Bockes - Abstain.

LAND & WATER SUMMIT: It will be this Saturday, March 8, and Novak spoke about some of the workshops being offered. Strategies for Creating Jobs While Restoring Watersheds, Municipal Strategies for Maintaining Working Farms and Forests, Community Climate Resilience and Adaptation - Policy and Action, Using Social Media: Advice for Small Organizations, and RhodeMap RI - Growth Centers: Building on Our Infrastructure are just some of the titles.

RIACC: Novak stated that they have a new website that has been very much complimented. It includes a sidebar to the towns: riacc-online.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The balance is \$1,431.71.

EARTH DAY: Peter Gengler very kindly presented us with a donation of \$300.00 toward the clean-up from the New England Mountain Biking Association. There was discussion on pamphlets and signs and a design for the shirts. Eastman suggested that students might be able to get in some of their time for community service at the clean-up. Each person agreed to take on the various duties.

Peter Gengler stated that there will be a Trail School on May 17. It will be all day, up in the northeast corner of Connecticut, and is about how to design sustainable trails.

Zuleger said that the Resource Recovery Company has put out a notice that all the towns must increase their recycling to 30% or have their tipping fees increased by a substantial amount, which would therefore increase property taxes. He stated that although we had done better this last time, we are not at 30%, and he also stated that he frequently sees people bringing trash to the Transfer Station without recycling anything.

Zuleger reported that the large tract of property that is for sale on Hopkins Hill Road is owned by a retired Coventry school teacher who lives down in Charlestown and that the asking price is 1.2 million dollars.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:35 P.M. Grube seconded. Voted: unanimously (7-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary

Sandra S. Bockes

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

APRIL 4, 2014

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on April 4, 2014. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Robert Zuleger, Christopher Grube, Claudia Chappelle and Sandra Bockes. Also present were: Peter Gengler and Alan Winsor from the New England Mountain Bike Association and Eric, Derek, Ricky and Sarah from the Ocean State Jeepsters.

Novak called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: There was discussion regarding the large parcel for sale near Big River and how its development might affect the watershed. There was also some brief discussion on recent extreme weather events.

MINUTES: Grube moved to accept the Minutes as written. Chappelle seconded. Voted: unanimously (7-0) - Aye.

RECYCLING: There was discussion on the lack of participation in the recycling program by some residents in the town and ways to educate and convince them that it would be in both their and the town's interest to participate. It was suggested that there is probably a combination of ignorance and laziness that prevents recycling by more people and that a notice sent to all households to explain the program and how the more that is recycled the more money comes back to the town to help keep the property taxes down perhaps could influence more people to recycle. Eastman moved to send a letter to the Council to suggest that such a notice be included in the same envelope with the tax bills and that the notice would clearly state the benefits to the town from recycling and the penalties, which could increase taxes, if the percentage does not go up as the State is requiring. Chappelle seconded. Voted: unanimously (7-0) - Aye. The Secretary will send the letter.

CORRESPONDENCE: There will be a RI Freshwater Forum at New England Tech, on April 9 from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. It is being sponsored by Save the Lakes, which is the organization that Paul Kaltschnee was instrumental in founding, and Janet Coit will be speaking.

The RI Natural History Survey has a number of seminars coming up.

There will be a workshop on bacteria source tracking at the Quinta Gamelin Community Center on May 22, in Bristol, RI.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The balance is \$1,731.71.

Eric Weybrant from the Jeepsters presented us with a donation of \$150.00 for the Earth Day Cleanup event.

Bockes commented of the fact that the Watershed Watch has raised its fee to where it is now 50% of our annual budget and that even though they are going to accept a reduction of \$100.00 this year (and also did last year), next year they will be wanting the full amount. It was decided to discuss this at our next meeting.

MUSIC FESTIVAL: There was discussion on the Wednesday evening music program planned for this summer in the pavilion and whether we could sell something. No decision was reached.

EARTH DAY CLEANUP: We will be getting dumpsters from the Water Resources Board. There are several large sites and a lot of roadside trash to pick up. Peter Gengler will be doing maps again which are always a great help. There was discussion on how many bags to get as well as how much water. There was also planning for where to place signs. The shirts will be safety green.

ADVISORY REVIEW: This is a request by 39 Nooseneck Hill, LLC, for a Zone

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Change from RFR-2 to Highway Business for its property AP 6, Lot 21-2.

We had left the review to the end of the meeting in hopes that the Applicant would be present to be able for us to ask him some questions. Only because this was a pretty straightforward request and because there were no abutters present with objections did we decide to go ahead with the review.

The property in question was formerly used for a church. It is 6.183 acres that is being used by the Applicant for Commercial Business, according to the Application. Although the property does abut occupied residential property on the North side, the rest of the lots around it are either Highway Business or Industrial A.

Eastman stated that she has concerns that because there is already a large area of paved parking, and that there is currently some trees and shrubs buffering the residential area that she would not like to see those trees cut down and the whole lot paved.

Bockes stated that she had spoken with the Town Clerk about this request and had been told that the Applicant intends to use the existing building for a warehouse and would not be conducting retail business on the site, so there shouldn't be a great increase in traffic in the area.

Novak stated that there do not seem to be any detrimental environmental problems with the property and suggested maintaining the buffering to the residence and not paving up to that property line.

Zuleger moved to recommend to the Council that it approve the Zone Change with the above suggestions. Grube seconded. Voted: unanimously (7-0) - Aye.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 9:00 P.M. Zuleger seconded. Voted: unanimously (7-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MAY 8, 2014

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on May 8, 2014. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Robert Zuleger and Claudia Chappelle.

Novak called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

Novak brought up the fact that the new plan for the proposed "Pine Estates" development is now for 28 two-acre lots instead of the Conservation Design Development that had been proposed. This is disappointing.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: The ongoing extreme weather events was discussed.

MINUTES: Grube moved to accept the Minutes as written. Eastman seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

BOARDS: Bockes stated that at the April Council meeting there had been a moment of silence for the passing of Raymond Moffitt and that then Kevin Breene had spoken a bit about him.

Bockes also stated that both Eastman and Grube had been reappointed to the Commission and reminded them that they needed to go and be sworn in.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We received a very generous donation from the Rhody Rovers of \$500.00 toward Earth Day expenses. Total expenses for Earth Day and the Watershed Watch program were \$1,533.08. The remaining balance is \$848.63.

BIG RIVER: There was discussion as to whether the farm could be saved as the State wants to preserve farms.

RIACC: The meeting will be May 14. The Grow Smart Seminar will be May 23.

EARTH DAY CLEANUP: Considering the weather, things went quite well. The signs were good because, among other things, they helped people understand what was going on so that drivers were less likely to be annoyed if they got slowed down for a couple of minutes. The shirts were good because they were very visible. Bockes stated that there were 75 people that signed in, but that most of the children were not separately listed, or numbered, and also that late comers had not signed in, so that she estimated there were most likely about 100 participants. About half of those came to the lunch, which seems to be the trend over the past few years. We are very grateful to the Rhody Rovers for their donation.

MEMORIAL DAY: There was discussion about the parade.

MEETINGS: Eastman and Bockes both stated that they would be unable to attend the June meeting, and Bockes pointed out that the July meeting was scheduled for the day before the 4th of July. It was decided to move those two to the following weeks, if available. Bockes said she would check with the Town Clerk and make the change.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:35 P.M. Eastman seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

JUNE 12, 2014

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on June 12, 2014. Present were: Daniel Novak, Clifton Sundelin, Christopher Grube, Claudia Chappelle and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Linda Eastman and Robert Zuleger.

Novak called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

We started with animal stories. Bockes told of a fascinating film about a porcupine eating a pumpkin that a friend had shown her on YouTube. Novak told of his recent trip to the Zoo. Chappelle told about a woodchuck that had gotten into her fenced garden by way of a tool leaning against the fence that had then been unable to get out and had unfortunately died due to the heat and not having access to water.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association is sponsoring a series of three lectures to be held on June 26, July 10 and July 24. The subject matter will be on the reasons for some of these extreme weather events and what to do to prepare for them.

Novak had a response to a letter he had written to Senator Raptakis regarding a bill about The Distributed Generation Growth Program.

The movie "Renewal" will be shown on June 23. It is sponsored by RI Interfaith Power & Light and the Community church of Providence.

Chappelle had a response to her Email to Louis Perrotti at Roger Williams Park Zoo regarding the possibility that Timber Rattlesnakes were being released in Rhode Island. The answer was that they were not, but were in "remote areas" of Massachusetts in order to "augment" sites with only a few snakes still existing in those areas. The RI population is considered to have been all killed off sometime in the 1960's.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: Novak commented on the battle going on in New York State over fracking and the fear of contamination of water supplies. We touched on some of these recent storms with huge hail. Although they are very localized, they cause an excessive amount of damage. There was discussion on Pine Estates and the limitations of both RIDEM and the Nature Conservancy.

We still need two alternate members, and we discussed the difficulty of getting them and especially of getting younger people who seem not to have the same feelings about volunteering and community service as older people do.

MINUTES: Novak moved to accept the Minutes as written. Grube seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

Bockes reported on the Town Council and Financial meetings.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The current balance is \$237.33. Bockes presented a bill for \$100.00, which would leave a balance of \$137.33.

Bockes reported that she had started a conversation on the Watershed Watch program with LMPA.

RIACC: There will be a program at the Jamestown Library regarding the Landfill sometime in September. It's running out of space.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:30 P.M. Chappelle seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

JULY 10, 2014

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on July 10, 2014. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Robert Zuleger, Christopher Grube and Claudia Chappelle.

Novak called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: There was discussion on the new development of various subdivisions in town.

MINUTES: Novak moved to accept the Minutes as written. Sundelin seconded. Voted: Novak, Sundelin and Bockes - Aye; Eastman - Abstain.

CORRESPONDENCE: Novak pointed out, with the example of correspondence with a prospective member several years ago, the difficulty of getting new members. We still need two alternates.

There was a question as to what our ordinances might say regarding blasting because both Zuleger and Chappelle have heard very loud explosions from the Cardi gravel bank operation, and Chappelle is concerned about new cracks in her house foundation since then.

TOWN COUNCIL: Bockes reported on the last meeting. Of particular interest was the vote to abandon part of Breakheart Hill Road in order to get things moving to change the intersection with route 102 so it will be farther from the truck stop and therefore safer. Along with that, a new turning lane is planned to avoid trucks backing up traffic.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There was \$35.59 left at the end of the last fiscal year. We are starting anew with a balance of \$1,200.00. We need to see what we can do about the Watershed Watch program, which has become too big a part of the budget.

BIG RIVER: The next meeting will be this Sunday, July 13, 2014. Novak made the comment that the town, and State, are losing a "treasure" in the Lemaire farm, as has already happened with many other properties over the years that had historical homes and buildings on them.

RIACC: The September meeting will be at the Jamestown Library, and the subject is the landfill.

NEW BUSINESS: The question was raised as to how best the town can continue to grow while conserving its rural character and quality of life for all its residents. An ongoing concern is that both our young people and elders will be able to afford to continue to live here for as long as they choose to do so. Bockes pointed out that a recent Journal article had rated the cities and towns on their affordability, and unfortunately West Greenwich was rated as being unaffordable as regards the ability of someone to buy an affordable house here.

WOOD PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION: Bockes reported on the first of their three lectures, which was held on June 26. The subject was, "Storms and Floods: Are They the New Normal?" The first part was presented by David R. Vallee, NOAA, NERFC Hydrologist In Charge. He explained why we have been having the recent extreme weather that has caused Rhode Island to be declared disaster areas for four years in a row, which had never before happened. He had many charts and graphics, all of which show the trends for temperature, flooding, ocean levels and severity of storms to be rising. The reason for the height of the flooding of the Pawtuxet River, in 2010, which put the mall and part of route 95 under water was because of the "urbanization" that took place from

the building of both malls and both highways which covered up all the ground that had previously allowed rain to infiltrate before reaching the river. In addition, there is currently a "blocking" situation in the atmosphere off the coast that prevents storms from continuing out over the sea, so instead they just hover in place over us all the while dropping tons of water, or snow, on our heads and causing repeated flooding situations. He also addressed what happened to some of the houses at Misquamicut that were washed off their foundations during the storm called Sandy, and he stressed that that happened from only a four foot storm surge. There were people there the next day who had been in those houses and who would have been killed, if there had instead been an eight foot storm surge.

This was a good segue to the next speaker, Michelle Burnett, RI Emergency Management Agency, RI State Floodplain Coordinator. They both stressed the importance of evacuating when told to do so. She also spoke about the new Federal Flood Maps, and that everyone should find out if their home is in a floodplain. Even though it may not have been before, it could be now, and if so then those people really need to get themselves the flood insurance because if they do not, and their house gets flooded, then FEMA will not help them. The other thing she talked about was the need for everyone to be prepared to help themselves for a minimum of 72 hours after a storm. It could easily be that long, and in some cases much longer, before utilities could be restored, so every household should have supplies for at least that long. There is a whole list of preparations people should take well before a storm is approaching, both for sheltering in place or for evacuating the home. Anyone living along, or vacationing at, the coast should plan on evacuating, as should anyone living along any type of freshwater body, whether or not it had ever before flooded. At present, it is not expected that storms will become all that more frequent, but it is expected that they will continue to increase in intensity, and it will be necessary for households to be able to fend for themselves for some period of time until things can get working again.

COSMOS: Eastman stated that these shows, with Neil DeGrasse Tyson, are excellent and talk about some of these things that were discussed in the lecture. She spoke about her recent cross-country driving vacation and things she had seen. One thing was a great many wind farms in various areas, and she stated that none of them messed up good views the way the offshore ones planned for around here will do. Mention was made of some vacant military property down in South County that would be perfect for a wind farm, so why couldn't it be there? It would certainly cost a lot less than an installation in the ocean, and because it wouldn't cost as much to build, the power generated shouldn't cost people as much as it will from these offshore windmills.

Novak moved to adjourn at 8:45 P.M. Bockes seconded. Voted: unanimously (4-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

AUGUST 7, 2014

Due to scheduling conflicts, this meeting was cancelled, and the West Greenwich Conservation Commission did not have a meeting in August of 2014.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 3, 2014

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on September 3, 2014. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Robert Zuleger, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Clifton Sundelin and Claudia Chappelle. Also present were: Mike Madden and Representative Lisa Tomasso.

Novak called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

At the request of Mr. Madden, we discussed plans for and noise from the truck stop. He stated that he is the closest resident and hears trucks all the time. When they moved there, the truck stop was a much smaller operation. He pointed out the creek behind the area and expressed concern about run-off that could pollute the wetlands and possibly wells from the additional impervious parking areas that are being built. The noise abatement plan calls for a staggered row of white pines, but Mr. Madden pointed out that as they grow white pines lose their lower branches, so then what kind of a buffer would just the tree trunks be? He feels mixed conifers would be better. Perhaps a solid wall like one sees along highways would be best. He is also concerned that the old cemetery will be properly protected. In addition, he questioned whether the new owners would be using best environmental practices because of a recent judgement against them out in California where they were alleged to not be doing a long list of things regarding underground storage tanks at six of their facilities, any one of which could have lead to contaminated groundwater. It was decided to send a report to the Planning Board to express our concerns.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: News articles having to do with bear detectors being put in the western part of the state, the invasive garlic mustard weed and how it can lead to the death of certain trees, the West Greenwich man who won the marathon in Iceland, and the fact that wind farms have an effect on the weather, at least locally. Novak also passed out an article by Naomi Klein on climate change.

MINUTES: Eastman moved to accept the Minutes as written. Novak seconded. Voted: Novak, Eastman and Bockes - Aye; Zuleger and Grube - Abstain.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report this month.

CORRESPONDENCE: Novak showed the memo he had sent to the Council asking to be on the agenda at the last meeting to discuss our direction going forward.

TIME CAPSULE: Novak brought up the possibility of a project for the upcoming anniversary of the founding of the town. The last one did not get buried due to a storm on the planned day, so it has remained in the vault.

WATERSHED WATCH: There was discussion about the fact that the cost has been steadily rising. Whereas it had originally been about 20% of our budget, it is now up to 50%, which is unsustainable. Bockes will look into getting some information from Linda Green, who runs the program, and then see if LMPA would be able to share the expense. Rep. Tomasso stated that they would be getting a grant this year, once they send in the paperwork, which might make it easier for them.

BIG RIVER: Bockes reported on the last two meetings which covered a great deal of information, including details on the twelve (12) leases, or memos of understanding, with the commercial entities on the property. They are all different. As the residents leave more and more dumping and other activities are taking place on the property. Quite a lot of fireworks residue was seen on top of some of the dunes.

RIACC: A meeting will be held in Cumberland about the monastery property. This

land is supposed to be permanently protected, but a town safety complex has been proposed for it, which is another issue of eminent domain being wrongly used.

RIACC is also involved with a program that will be held in the town chambers in Jamestown, on September 22, at 7:00 P.M. The talk will address what to do about the landfill in Johnston, which is projected to be at capacity in 2030. Rep. Tomasso stated that a committee was supposed to have been formed to study this issue three years ago, but it has not been done. Novak stated that she is being complimented as an environmentally conscious legislator.

WPA LECTURE: Bockes reported on the July 24 lecture. It was about how the changing climate is affecting wildlife. Among other things, birds are moving further north, so the Chickadee is now not as common at bird feeders in this area, for example. The talk also was about native pollinators and how we can help them by growing native plants. Bockes passed out information about an invasive plant called Black Swallowwort. It is related to Milkweed, which the Monarch Butterfly needs for laying its eggs and for its caterpillars to eat. If it gets fooled by the Swallowwort and lays its eggs on that, its caterpillars will die because they cannot eat it. Monarchs are in trouble in large part due to the large-scale spraying of Round-Up along roads which kills the Milkweed that it needs for its life-cycle.

FARMER'S MARKET: Novak said that he had been asked if we would be interested in sponsoring one next year. Since everyone thought that would be a great idea, Bockes will call Susan Woolohogian to let her know.

CELEBRATE WEST GREENWICH DAY: There was discussion as to who could man a booth and what to have in it.

Zuleger moved to adjourn at 8:50 P.M. Bockes seconded. Voted: unanimously - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

OCTOBER 9, 2014

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on October 9, 2014. Present were: Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Robert Zuleger, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Daniel Novak and Claudia Chappelle. Also present were: Mike Madden and Gina Thurn.

Eastman called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

TRUCK STOP: Eastman stated that after our last meeting she had gone to the truck stop to see the conditions for herself. She noted that some of the trees had already been planted for the sound barrier, that they were of a good size, that some were pines but others were short-needled evergreens that might have a bushier growth habit than pines. It was noted that the truck stop's well had been found to be contaminated with fecal coliform, and Mr. Madden stated that he intended to have his well tested. He said he would like it if, when the sound tests were to be done, the testing people could set up on his deck. He also stated that those tests should be done without first telling the truck stop people when they were coming. It was noted that the signs about idling had been installed, but they were incorrect. The question about the historical cemetery was again raised as to whether it was being properly protected.

FARMER'S MARKET: Gina Thurn, who runs the Exeter Farmer's Market, had been invited to speak to us on the logistics of running one. She gave us quite a lot of information. Some of the main points are: first find out if the town wants and would support this; find out if there are at least ten to twelve vendors that would commit to a season of 20 to 22 weeks; ideally, one, or more, of the vendors would run the market; the site needs to have good roadside visibility; it should have access to a bathroom; vendors should include other things besides just farm products; there should be something to drink (coffee, juice, sodas, etc.); if possible, there should also be something quick that people could eat; the season usually runs from about the middle of May to the beginning or middle of October and must run every week, rain or shine, unless there is a major storm because missing a week due to weather means that the following week will have much lower attendance; there must be contracts with the vendors; week-ends usually run during the day, and week days usually run in the evening; three to four hours is best, with an hour before and an hour after to set up and tear down; the market needs to be run as a business and requires not only the 20 to 22 week commitment but also the time for lining up vendors, organizing, advertising, etc. There is more to it than we had perhaps originally thought, but we continue to be enthusiastic about the idea. Bockes stated that she would speak to Susan Woloochian about this information.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: The Climate Change Rally was tabled to the next meeting. There was discussion about articles in the Journal regarding the Landfill and Resource Recovery. The idea of requiring people to buy special bags for their trash was discussed. The general consensus was that, if that were done, it would lead to an ever greater number of people throwing their trash out along the roadsides.

MINUTES: Bockes apologized for having misspelled Susan Woloochian's last name. Zuleger moved to accept the Minutes as written with that one correction. Grube seconded. Voted: Eastman, Zuleger, Grube and Bockes - Aye; Sundelin - Abstain.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The balance is still at \$1,200.00.

BIG RIVER: Zuleger noted that the driveways seem to have finally been blocked off with boulders that will be harder to move. He stated that he had seen a backhoe doing this in the rain one day. He also stated that someone is picking up the big stuff (mattresses, appliances, furniture, etc.) that people dump in the area. He said he didn't know if it was our town people or the state ones. The next meeting will be this Sunday, the 12th. The last meeting was very brief and centered on coming up with questions to be asked of the politicians running for office.

LAKE MISHNOCK: Bockes stated that she had spoken to Mr. Ken Brown about the Watershed Watch Program. He is the LMPA Vice-President and has been monitoring the lake for a number of years. LMPA is having a meeting this coming Saturday, and he said he would bring up the subject at that meeting.

JOHNSTON LANDFILL: There was discussion on the article regarding the presentation at the Jamestown Library. They want people to take as much as possible out of the waste stream by recycling more, but then that means they will have to charge more for tipping fees for what does come in as trash. That would essentially penalize people for doing a good thing, which hardly seems fair. The article stated that burning the trash costs more, but why couldn't it be burned to make money by generating electricity, rather than just being burned to get rid of it?

Zuleger moved to adjourn at 9:00 P.M. Bockes seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

NOVEMBER 5, 2014

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on November 5, 2014. Present were: Daniel Novak, Clifton Sundelin, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Linda Eastman, Robert Zuleger and Claudia Chappelle.

Novak called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: There was discussion on "Rhode Map RI". Novak had copies of e-mails from environmental groups regarding the results of the past elections and their concerns that there will be assaults on the environment now. RIACC has big issues with encroachment on wetlands. Question 7 won by a very large margin which shows that Rhode Islanders want to protect our environment.

MINUTES: Grube moved to accept the Minutes as written. Sundelin seconded. Voted: Sundelin, Grube and Bockes - Aye; Novak - Abstain.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter was received from the RIDEM regarding application for a grant in the Tree Rhode Island program. It is a 60% match by the applicant, so is not something we will do.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The balance is at \$1,200.00.

LAKE MISHNOCK: Bockes stated that LMPA had agreed to help us out with part of the Watershed Watch fee this year as they had gotten a grant that was helping them. As an aside, Ken Brown had told her that their group also has trouble getting new members and that most of their members are the older people.

This led to a discussion as to how we might be able to get the new members that we still need. Novak stated that there seems to be a disconnect from government by younger people and to civic organizations, so that they don't join groups the way they used to, which is a real problem.

BIG RIVER: The last meeting was cancelled.

RIACC: They are working on the March 14, 2015 Summit. They want "hands-on" workshops. Wetlands and resources of all sorts are under pressure. There is a question as to whether perhaps the DEM and the Commissions could work together to support each other in the common goal of protecting the environment in the state.

WEBSITE: There was discussion on a possible survey.

TIME CAPSULE: There was discussion about sponsoring an evening in the Spring of 2015 to get ideas from people as to what they think the town will be like in 75 and 275 years from 2016. More at the next meeting.

WILDLIFE: Novak mentioned the bio-blitzes that have been taking place. He also stated that a wildlife component is one thing missing from our inventory.

Bockes had brought in two of the baby hog-nosed snakes that have been showing up in her yard over the past week. She stated that she was going to release them in the morning, but thought the members would enjoy seeing them. These were only two out of a total of 76 that she and her husband had found.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 7:00 P.M. Grube seconded. Voted: unanimously (4-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

DECEMBER 4, 2014

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on December 4, 2014. Present were: Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Daniel Novak, Robert Zuleger and Claudia Chappelle.

Eastman called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: Eastman stated that the Maddens have expressed concern regarding trees that have been cut along Breakheart Hill Road.

Several people stated that they had tried to subscribe to EcoRI, but they were unable to do so.

There was discussion about the low water problem Novak had with his well this past Fall.

MINUTES: Grube moved to accept the Minutes as written with the correction that we had adjourned at 8:00 P.M. and not at 7:00 P.M. Sundelin seconded. Voted: Sundelin, Grube and Bockes - Aye; Eastman - Abstain.

CORRESPONDENCE: A check for \$300.00 was received from LMPA for one half the expense of the fee for monitoring Lake Mishnock.

There was discussion about problems with the Postal Service.

2015 MEETINGS: The proposed schedule was discussed. Because the July meeting fell on the 2nd, Bockes moved that the July meeting be moved to the 9th instead. Sundelin seconded. Voted: unanimously (4-0) - Aye.

MEMBERSHIP: Eastman stated that a possible new member who had intended to come to this meeting had gotten tied up at work and could not make it this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The balance is at \$1,200.00. The addition of the \$300.00 will make it \$1,500.00.

RIACC: We reviewed the proposed workshops for the Summit in March. Consensus was that they seem like good choices. There is concern with wetlands reduction in the state. Eastman stated that canoe access has gotten less and also that maybe we could get into trail building as a way to get more people out into the environment because that is the way to make them care more about it. There needs to be more outdoor recreation.

Planning for the White Rock Dam was briefly touched upon.

The opinion was expressed that it would be very good if there were a way that the commissions and DEM could work together to benefit the state and towns.

2015 PROJECTS: Since the Earth Day Cleanup brings out a lot of people, the suggestion was made that perhaps trail building sessions could do the same. People seem willing to commit to a project of a few hours duration, and they don't mind getting dirty for a good cause, so perhaps this would be something to look into doing.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:21 P.M. Grube seconded. Voted: unanimously (4-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes