

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

JANUARY 8, 2015

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on January 8, 2015. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Christopher Grube, Robert Zuleger and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Claudia Chappelle.

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

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The balance is \$1,500.00.

BIG RIVER: There was discussion about a possible composting site in the area.

NEW DEVELOPMENT: The 32-house development for Stubble Brook Road was brought up and discussed because the question was raised as to why the Commission's input was not sought for such a large project. It was stated that, in Smithfield for example, their Commission is in at the very beginning of all projects so that the developer will know the concerns the Commission would want addressed prior to their having spent a lot on plans.

RIACC: There are some new people on the board. There was discussion about some of the workshops at the upcoming Summit. The keynote speaker is to be Peter Forbes. There is to be a public forum, in Smithfield, on just how much protected land really is when it's supposed to be protected "in perpetuity".

WEB PAGE: The consensus is that it needs to be made more interesting. There are links to all the towns on the RIACC site.

275TH ANNIVERSARY: There was discussion on the idea of a time capsule, and perhaps a contest about things to put into one. What might things look like in another fifty or a hundred years?

WORK PLAN: Items for this year include Earth Day, the March Summit, 275th Anniversary, strengthening the review process, and possibly a Farmer's Market.

FARMER'S MARKET: Eastman stated that she had been speaking with the woman who owns the New England Farm and Art Store at the Exit 6 plaza, and that she had run one before, in Scituate, and is planning one at her current location. She has commitments from some of those people, but she would like help getting more farmers.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:45 P.M. Grube seconded. Voted: unanimously (6-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes

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

FEBRUARY 5, 2015

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on February 5, 2015. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Robert Zuleger, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Clifton Sundelin and Claudia Chappelle. Also present were: Peter Gengler and Gail Murray.

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

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

There was discussion on the previous limitation on the number of permits to be issued for new housing in a year. That program was dropped several years ago and is unlikely to be resumed in the near future.

There was discussion on the review process and on the 55 and older development for over near the Centre of New England. The question was raised as to whether any of it was designated as "Affordable Housing", and also how, or if, the town can be sure it will remain restricted to seniors. The concern is that it could gradually change to standard housing over time. Eastman stated that she felt it would be better for the town if there were businesses on that property, not residential units at the density being proposed.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: The balance is \$1,500.00. The bills for the Watershed Watch program and RIACC will be coming in soon.

BUDGET: There was discussion on the fact that the fee for the Watershed Watch has increased to where it is now up to 50% of our budget, that we are planning to do some activities for the town's Anniversary next year, and that we have been having to rely on donations for the Cleanup, which have been generous in the past, but are not guaranteed. One large donor stopped several years ago. Zuleger moved that, based on the above considerations, we request a budget of \$1,800.00 for the next fiscal year. Grube seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

FARMER'S MARKET: Still working on this. Peter Gengler suggested going on the web site for Farm Fresh RI for a list of farmers.

SUMMIT: The Land and Water Summit will be all day March 14, at URI. The question as to just how protected Open Space really is will be discussed at a program to be held up in Cumberland.

TIME CAPSULE: This will be for the 2016 Anniversary Celebration. There was discussion on how much space might be available and what could go into one.

EARTH DAY CLEANUP: There was discussion on various details. Bockes moved to hold the event on Saturday, April 18. Zuleger seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

ECO-FILMS: A series of films on the environment will be held at the Community Center behind the Library on February 10, March 10, and April 14. They will be at 7:00 P.M. Grube called our attention to this notice in The Reminder.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:07 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**

MARCH 12, 2015

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on MARCH 12, 2015 . present were: Daniel Novak, Clifton Sundlin, Robert Zuleger and Christopher Grube. Absent: Linda Eastman, Claudia Chapelle and Sandra Bockes. Also present:, Eric Weybrant, Rick Barrette, Sara Linden- Barrette of Ocean State Jeepsters, Peter Gengler of the New England Mountain Bike Association and Gail Murray.

Novak called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM

There were no requests for advisory board reviews.

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

NEWS AND OBSERVATIONS: It was noted that a new farmers market is opening on Hopkins Hill rd. near Mishnock rd. in West Greenwich. The Annual Land and Water Conservation Summit will be held on March 14th, 2015 at URI. It will include a discussion of the possible advantages or disadvantages of DEM collaboration with local conservation commissions.

CORRESPONDENCE: A bill was received fro Watershed Watch in the amount of 500.00.

TOWN BOARDS: there were no Town Board updates.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There is a balance of 1500.00

TIME CAPSULE: Novak is seeking essays from local students on what West Greenwich will be like in the future. A suggestion was made to include a video of past earth day clean-ups.

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP: The required insurance has been obtained. Novak will obtain the event permit. Several sites in Big River were considered for clean up. Two tire dumps, several truckloads of debris at the old Read property and the usual roadside trash will be this year's focus. The number of dumpsters and their locations will be decided at the April meeting. Eastman is seeking grant money from DEM. Zuleger has obtained a donation of clean up materials (trash bags, gloves and water) from Home Depot. The signs will be updated and placed at last years locations. It was estimated that clean ups have filled 35 dumpsters over the past ten years. The possibility of purchasing engraved "Tick Keys" commemorating the clean up's ten year anniversary as a premium for volunteers was discussed.

Novak moved to adjourn at 8:35 PM. Sundelin seconded. Voted: unanimously 4-0 Aye.

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

APRIL 2, 2015

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on April 12, 2015. Please note that the meeting had been postponed from the previous week due to inclement weather. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Robert Zuleger, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Clifton Sundelin and Claudia Chappelle. Also present were: Peter Gengler and Alan Winsor from NEMBA, Robert Verrier from WGLT, Rick Barrette and Sara Linden-Barrette from OSJ.

Novak called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: A donation of \$300.00 was received from the New England Mountain Bike Association, and a grant of \$500.00 was received from Rhode Island Resource Recovery.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There was no report due to the Treasurer's absence.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: There was brief mention on legislation in California having to do with the severe ongoing drought out West.

RIACC: There was discussion on ways the commissions could possibly partner with RIDEM. Suggestions have been made to the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture for their Senate Bill S 0737. Development needs to be made more a matter of intent. Novak stated that West Greenwich is no longer really a rural town due to the loss of so many large tracts of farmland. On May 13, at the Burrillville Library, there will be further discussion on these subjects.

EARTH DAY CLEANUP: There was discussion on the need for more P.R. Bob Verrier stated that they would be giving away a \$1,000.00 Citizenship Award to a student to try to motivate the students. The kids have to have at least \$50.00 worth of sponsors. They are also requiring people to register to participate at least ten (10) days prior to their event to be held on April 25. The suggestion was made to possibly combine events next year.

Peter Gengler stated that they have identified three (3) definite sites to clean, and they're looking at more. He will be doing the maps again. There was discussion on safety issues, logistics, photos, tick keys and shirts.

Peter Gengler told us that a new organic market will be opening soon at 309 Hopkins Hill Road, in Coventry. He said that a friend of his will be growing vegetables for it.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:40 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**

MAY 6, 2015

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on MAY 6, 2015 . present were: Daniel Novak, Clifton Sundelin, and Christopher Grube. Absent: Linda Eastman, Claudia Chapelle, Sandra Bockes, and Robert Zulegar. Also present: Peter Gengler of the New England Mountain Bike Association and Robert Verrier of WGLT. Novak excused himself 7:30. Novak called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. There were no requests for advisory board reviews.

MINUTES: Minutes were tabled due to lack of a quorum.

NEWS AND OBSERVATIONS: Novak visited the farmers market on Hopkins Hill Rd. in Coventry and was impressed. RIACC and DEM will host a meeting to discuss future collaboration on May 13, 2015. The RI Fruit Growers Association and URI are sponsoring the 2015 RI Farm Scavenger Hunt, (information at www.rifruitgrowers.org)

CORRESPONDENCE: A donation of 220.00 was received from Rhody Rovers.

TOWN BOARDS: there were no Town Board updates.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There is a balance of 1461.20

NEW BUSINESS: Regarding the time capsule, Novak ascertained the size to be 12x12x18 and further action on the capsule was planned for the fall. A possible commission sponsored event for the fall was discussed.

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP 2015: Bockes sent the commission a report on participation, supplies, food, etc.; 146 volunteers signed in this year, we ran out of food and tee shirts. The report will be reviewed in planning for next year.

5 dumpsters were filled to capacity with a large pile of debris remaining. The town agreed to dispose of the excess.

It was suggested that an excavator be used next year to densify the material to save dumpster space, Gengler reported issues with dumpster placement. He alerted Waste Management, they will address the problem for next year.

Verrier reported the results of the WGLT cleanup. Both sides of 16 miles of road were cleaned and 2 dumpsters were filled. All meeting attendees agreed there should be future coordination with WGLT for cleanup events. Verrier mentioned the need for year round roadside cleanup.

Gengler suggested a leader / coordinator be found for next years event, as organizing and dispatching teams is a large task.

Grube and Sundelin adjourned the meeting at 8:30.

Christopher Grube, acting Secretary WGCC

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TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 4, 2015

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on June 4, 2015. Present: Vice Chair Linda Eastman, Treasurer Clifton Sundelin, and Commission Members Christopher Grube and Robert Zuleger. Absent: Chairman Daniel Novak, Secretary Sandra Bockes, and Commission Member Claudia Chappelle.

Vice Chairwoman Linda Eastman called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

There was no request for advisory opinions.

MINUTES:

Christopher Grube presented the minutes from the May meeting. Clifton Sundelin moved to accept the minutes as written. Grube seconded. Voted Aye 2-0, with Robert Zuleger and Linda Eastman abstaining, having being absent for May meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The balance is \$396.20. There are no pending financial obligations at this time.

BIG RIVER AREA/EARTH DAY CLEAN UP:

There was discussion of next years Earth Day Clean-up and the benefits of coordinating with the West Greenwich Land Trust to combine efforts to one date. There was also discussion of appointing a leader to direct teams and assign areas. In the past, Peter Gengler of the New England Mountain Bike Association has taken on this role along with his video documentary filming and other tasks.

Zuleger noted there was still trash at the Big River Fishermen's Access off Weaver Hill Road that was overflow from the Earth Day clean up which exceeded the capacity of the 5 dumpsters. Zuleger agreed to contact Town Highway personnel and ask that they dispose of it or contact the state for removal by DEM.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Eastman suggested the Commission acknowledge the years of service and support which has been given to the Commission and the Town, by presenting a plaque to the several organizations that have helped make successful Earth Day Events. After discussion, Zuleger moved to allocate \$300 for the purchase of the plaques to be presented to the NEMBA, RI Jeepsters, and Rhody Rovers. Seconded by Grube. Vote was unanimous, in favor 4-0.

Zuleger moved to Adjourn at 8:25pm. Grube seconded. Vote was in favor, 4-0.

Linda I. Eastman, Vice Chair and Acting Secretary

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

JULY 9, 2015

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on July 9, 2015. 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 7:06 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

MINUTES: The Minutes were not available.

EARTH DAY: The plaques for the three groups were shown by Eastman. We will see if they could be presented at the September Council meeting.

P/B MEETING: Their July meeting will include the subdivision on Hopkins Hill Road which is behind Novak's property. He questions whether all the additional wells may cause problems with existing wells.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: Novak mentioned that the Tesla Company will be making battery walls for buildings.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We ended the fiscal year with \$62.20 left in our account. The new allotment is \$1,800.00 for the fiscal year 2015/2016. The plaques were a total of \$84.00.

L/T MEETING: Grube stated that he had attended the last Land Trust meeting. There was talk about possible coordinating the two Earth Day events next year.

RIACC: They are updating information on all the commissions. There is an event planned for the Fall regarding the former monastery grounds in Cumberland and a preservation issue with them. Other regional events are also being planned.

TIME CAPSULE: Novak passed out a draft of ideas to start thinking about the time capsule for next year's celebration.

CELEBRATE WEST GREENWICH DAY: Novak asked that we start thinking about ideas for an exhibit.

AUGUST MEETING: Bockes stated that she would be unable to attend the meeting. Others were unsure if they could. Bockes then moved to not hold a meeting in August. Novak seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:40 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**

AUGUST 6, 2015

At the July meeting it was voted to cancel this meeting, so the West Greenwich Conservation Commission did not have a meeting in August of 2015.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes

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

SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on September 3, 2015. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Clifton Sundelin, Robert Zuleger and Claudia Chappelle.

Novak called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

P/B MEETING: Novak stated that he had attended the last meeting as a citizen concerned about the development taking place behind him, especially about what all the new wells could do to the existing ones. He was surprised to be told that you are not considered to own your water. He also stated that he was sorry that he had not thought to ask about any affordable housing in the development. There are about 50 more acres still in negotiation that could be added to this project.

MINUTES: Grube moved to accept the July and August Minutes as written. Novak seconded. Voted: unanimously (3-0) - Aye. Eastman arrived a little later.

CORRESPONDENCE: Bockes reported on a phone call she had received from Ken Brown, President of the Lake Mishnock Preservation Association, regarding the fee for the Watershed Watch program. It seems that it has gone up an additional \$50.00 because of some sort of tax, and LMPA was being asked to pay additional money. Eastman questioned the propriety of their being asked rather than us, because we're the ones who paid the invoice for the program. Bockes said she would look into it further.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: Novak stated that there are big questions in the environmental community regarding give-aways to builders. There are concerns that they will be going after protected lands. Grube stated that due to the great resistance by people in Vermont and New Hampshire to electric transmission towers and lines going through the mountains and ruining the views that attract tourists and their considerable cash to those states the lines will be going underground. Also, solar power is becoming less expensive.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bockes stated that the Treasurer had told her there is \$1,800.00 in the account.

CELEBRATE WEST GREENWICH DAY: There was discussion about the booth. Novak had a draft for an essay that we hope may be possible to be done by senior high students for inclusion in the time capsule for the 275th Anniversary next year.

AWARDS FOR COUNCIL MEETING: Bockes read a draft of a statement for the awards ceremony for the September 9th Council meeting. Suggestions were made for editing it for length. She stated that she had spoken to each of the groups, and that all planned to have people there.

RIACC: Novak stated that there are some "very passionate people" on the board. Eastman moved to adjourn at 8:27 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**

OCTOBER 8, 2015

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on October 8, 2015. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Robert Zuleger, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Claudia Chappelle.

Novak called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

MINUTES: Novak stated that he wanted the line in the September Minutes, under the heading P/B Meeting, "He was surprised to be told that you are not considered to own your water." to be amended because it does not accurately express his thinking on the subject. He stated that he does not believe that and had not meant to say that. After some discussion, Eastman moved to accept the Minutes as amended. Grube seconded. Voted: Novak, Eastman, Grube and Bockes - Aye; Sundelin and Zuleger - Abstain.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was a letter from the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association. They will be conducting a three year study and are looking for members from each town in the study area. The purpose of the study is to determine if the rivers in the study will meet the criteria for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers. They are the Wood, Pawcatuck, Beaver, Chipuxet and Queens Rivers. Grube stated that he would be interested in being on the committee.

There was also a letter from RIACC and their statement for the annual dues. The letter made many good points why it is important to be a member and pay the dues.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: There will be a Fall Forestry Tour on Saturday, October 24, at 252 Tomaquag Road, Hopkinton, RI. There will also be a workshop, at the Exeter Library, on December 5, about the Small Forestry Program.

Novak mentioned that there are some rooftop greenhouses in New York City that are called "Gotham Greens" and are growing food in areas where basically no sunlight reaches what little ground there is.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The balance is at \$1,800.00, but several bills have come in.

LAKE MISHNOCK: Bockes reported on the talk she had with Linda Greene at the URI Watershed Watch Program. She explained that the additional \$50.00 was due to a surcharge placed on the program by the college. Going forward, it has been agreed that the Commission will share the cost equally with the Lake Mishnock Preservation Association, which is what is done in most areas. Eastman stated that she would like to see the results of the testing.

RECOGNITION AWARDS: Novak stated that the ceremony had gone very well and that there were people there from each of the three groups to accept the plaques.

CELEBRATE WEST GREENWICH DAY: Novak said that it was a great event. There were a lot of exhibitors with varied wares and interesting things to see and do. Next year, the town, rather than the Land Trust, will be running the event. The plan is to combine this event with the Anniversary celebration in 2016.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Jennifer Paquet spoke to us about the plans for updating the plan as it has been twenty years since it was done. She stated that the old plan was really good and that a lot of things have been implemented from it. Input is wanted from all the boards. Natural Resources is the first subject. The state has added some new things that must be included: natural hazards and climate change. Every chapter has a goals part, and there is a need to prioritize. She stated that she would have more specific information for next time.

WGCC REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 8, 2015, PAGE 2:

There are ten large wind turbines being installed along route 102, in Coventry. The Planner stated that the Planning Board has a draft ordinance regarding these and that they want to see how it goes in Coventry.

Eastman mentioned the very nice rock display at the Library, and then Jenny said it was part of her collection and that it will be there until the end of the month.

BIG RIVER: Zuleger mentioned the mattresses dumped in the area. He stated that our town men seem to be doing a good job of picking up the large items. He also said that he knows of one case where someone who had dumped out a pile of his trash was shamed into going back and picking it up. Novak stated that the person who he has doing some tile work for him had told him that he thinks there are too many trails in the area now because there are less deer to hunt.

RIACC: Novak mentioned the letter and that they would like feedback on it. He stated that there are possibilities of working with DEM. RIACC would like to see all Commissions have greater responsibilities. In Massachusetts they have actual regulatory power. In Smithfield the Conservation Commission is part of a pre-evaluation committee, along with the Planners and Engineers, that looks at a proposed project at the very earliest stage when it is really just an idea. That way a developer can find out up front, and before money is spent on plans, what the town will want, and not want. Including all three groups in this discussion allows the developer to have the project designed to accommodate the things they want and need and thereby save money. When the process starts with plans already made, it is natural for there to be resistance to making changes in order to then incorporate the things the town wants.

TIME CAPSULE: There are details to be worked out. Bockes mentioned that it might be good to include ads for things rather than the actual items because of the size of the box. Eastman felt that anything included should be just about the town rather than about conditions in general.

NEXT MEETING: Since the Wood-Pawcatuck meeting is scheduled for the same night as our next meeting, Bockes suggested that we should see if we could change ours so the Grube would be able to attend both. She will contact the Clerk and get back to everyone.

Zuleger moved to adjourn at 9:00 P.M. Grube seconded. Voted: unanimously (6-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes

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

NOVEMBER 2, 2015

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on November 2, 2015. Present were: Daniel Novak, Clifton Sundelin, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Linda Eastman, Robert Zuleger and Claudia Chappelle. Also present was Representative Sherry Roberts.

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

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

MINUTES: Grube moved to accept the Minutes as written. Sundelin seconded. Voted: unanimously (4-0) - Aye.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: Grube shared two articles. One was on homes made from used shipping containers, and the other was on new batteries that can store energy from wind and solar power sources. Bockes mentioned that the November issue of the National Geographic is all on climate and that one thing that was particularly intriguing was photocatalytic concrete which breaks down pollutants that fall on it when it is used for paving.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There were expenses of \$20.43 and \$100.00, which leaves a balance of \$1,679.57.

BIG RIVER: Nothing to report.

WOOD-PAWCATUCK: Grube reported that the meeting had been postponed because the other towns cannot find representatives to be on the committee.

RIACC: Some planning ideas for workshops at the upcoming March Summit were shared, and they are looking for input from the members.

WATERSHED WATCH: Bockes stated that she had spoken with Linda Greene about getting a report. They will be happy to send one once all the figures have been tabulated, which will be after January. She was also told that they would be able to come out and do a presentation on the program, so Bockes will call her again, in January, to arrange that and will also call Ken Brown from LMPA to see if they would like to attend something like that.

TIME CAPSULE: Novak stated that he had spoken with Charlotte Jolls who had been involved with it 25 years ago. He further stated that we should be thinking of things that give an idea of what's going on in town at this time, and maybe also in the state.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: There was some discussion, and we have our "homework" to do prior to the next meeting.

There was discussion on how it is difficult to get people to be on boards, or join groups. Bockes stated that we can get 150 people to come out and muck about in the woods getting dirty and wet to remove other people's trash from the Big River Area. They will give up a good portion of a Spring Saturday to do that, but we cannot get anyone who is willing to commit to just one evening a month to be on a board that is an important part of the town. She stated that people need to be willing to get involved and be the "they" they always talk about needing to do this, that, or the other thing.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:05 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 3, 2015

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on December 3, 2015. Present were: Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Robert Zuleger and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Daniel Novak, Christopher Grube and Claudia Chappelle.

Eastman called the meeting to order at 7:11 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: There was a notice about some nRCS meetings, but nothing actionable.

NEWS & OBSERVATIONS: Zuleger stated that it seems that the level of care that people have about the environment has gone down all around the world. He sees it as a positive step that people are meeting on climate change, but questions if it will change anything, and stated that he just feels less optimistic than in the past.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The balance is at \$1,679.57.

2016 MEETING DATES: Bockes moved to approve the dates for the 2016 meetings. Eastman seconded. Voted: unanimously (4-0) - Aye.

SUMMIT: Eastman stated that she thought the proposed titles for the workshops should be more specific in order to grab ones interest without having to read the entire description about the workshop.

BIG RIVER: Eastman stated her concern that she feels the State seems to have abandoned the area. She said it needs fire roads and that the large rocks that have been put in to block access for dumping could also impede access for fire trucks, if a fire ever got started in there. She further stated that when she hikes she never sees anyone else, that trails are needed and places to put in canoes, and that parking is a problem at Tarbox pond. Zuleger stated that there is no stormwater management there because the pond is all silted up by the road. Sundelin said that had once been the deepest part of the pond and that his uncle used to flush it every year to keep it clear.

Zuleger said that a bald eagle had been spotted at Tiogue Lake.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: There was discussion, and then it was decided to give the papers that Eastman and Bockes had done to the Planner.

TIME CAPSULE: There were no new ideas for items to include, but the feeling was that although it would be good to solicit ideas from the school kids, the idea of a contest was not liked.

EARTH DAY: The idea of a joint day, with the Land Trust, would seem to make sense. Zuleger had spoken with Bob Verrier, who may come to our January meeting. In looking at the calendar, it seems that probably April 23 would be the best day.

WORK PLAN: Eastman stated that the priorities for next year will probably be the Comprehensive Plan and Earth Day, and also the Anniversary.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:50 P.M. Zuleger seconded. Voted: unanimously (4-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

Sandra S. Bockes