

**Conservation & Open Spaces Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 23, 2009**

**Members present:** Michael Westerfield, Patty Szczys, Dean Fiora and Kay Haskell

**Town Representative:** James Finger

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm. No one wished to speak at Citizens and Delegations.

**Minutes:** Minutes were approved with correction of Dean's last name to Fiora.

**Correspondence:** Habitat Newsletter of CT Assn. of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commission. Mr. Finger stated that this was cut from his budget for next year. It would cost \$60.

Kay's brochure was accepted for revisions of wording. Aerial photos are available from Leslie Sweetnum. Kay will take more.

Michael wrote letter to Willimantic Waster stating that this Commission are O.K. with their recycling Program for autos.

Mr. Finger told us that Jean has secured a grant of \$4,000 to print stencils on storm drains that Celia Guillard has been working on to encourage people not to dump hazardous materials into drains.

Mr. Finger updated us about the new Aquifer Regulations. The Zoning Commission had an informational meeting about regulations. They have taken regs from other areas and towns as to wells and ground water. Laurie Matthew of the Dept. of Public Health says none of the areas in Windham will be a future drinking water supply for Windham. Ground water goes through Windham and follows Route 203 to Shetucket River to Norwich. There is no monitoring except at the old landfill off Plains Road which is now closed. This must be monitored for 20 years.

The Upgrade to the Sewer Plant of a secondary Facility is in the middle of construction. Solid wastes will go through this system then will be dumped into the Willimantic River!

The Charles River Labs must protect ground water. They test antigens to create antivirus for pharmacial companies. They take eggs and make serum from them. Site inspections proved they have high safe guards in place to prevent any leaks. They also provide high tech jobs. And have disposal sageguards.

There are still possible concerns of Conservation and Open Spaces Commissions about the disposal of personal care products and medications going into our ground water. Hospitals, clinics, Vets offices are on sewer systems. The sewer plant has no means to filter out what your body rejects.

### **Land Use Proposals:**

#### **MILL #4 SITE PARKING:**

Zoning Application Review of possible parking on Mill #4 site. This site still has contaminants such as coal and ash and bits of glass and metal from an oil tank. Mill #4 burned down in 1995. The Main Mills will also change the parking area in the front and back of the buildings. Condition of bridge to Mill #4 site good.

Town has river easement that we can develop for walkway from downtown to Rec. Park area.

The T & M building will also need parking for its 84 units. It has about 60 spaces now.

There is an Old Cotton Mill that is semi-abandoned and owned by Keith Nasson. Now only homeless living there!

#### **STOP & SHOP NEW SITE:**

Site is in front of VFW which Friendly's will move to and Friendly's Site turned into Gas Station area.

This site used to be the Alms House (Poor Farm) and given to the VFW in 1947!

#### **MEETING NOTICE:**

CT Land Use Conservation Conference is April 4, 2009

At Wesleyan University at Middleton, CT

Contact: [www.caciwc.org](http://www.caciwc.org)

#### **RIVER ACCESS:**

Brad Wojick not enthusiastic so we may need to gather volunteers to help us with this! Patty added that Eric Thomas has scheduled a paddle from Lauter Park thru the Shetucket River. Last Green Valley source to see about it! May 23<sup>rd</sup>?

Respectively Submitted by:

Kay P. Haskell