

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2012**

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on January 5, 2012. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Robert Zuleger and Stephanie Madden.

Eastman called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** GrowSmartRI will be having two training sessions on conducting effective land use reviews on January 26 and February 23, in Middletown and Bristol, respectively.

**NEWS/OBSERVATIONS/EVENTS:** The Land Trust's turkey dinner will be on March 24. Novak brought up some of the extreme weather events that have been taking place. Even though changes may be referred to as "global warming" the cooling of the Gulf Stream will mean that England will experience colder weather. The Keystone pipeline that is being proposed to bring tar sands from Alberta across the US to Texas is being touted as creating jobs, they are only short-term jobs. An article by Michael Conathan shows that there are many more jobs for coastal restoration and pollution reduction in the Chesapeake Bay area than the pipeline could ever generate, and it could ultimately be an environmental disaster for our country.

Grube brought up the subject of recycling by stating that some of the trash haulers working in town are not keeping the recyclables separate from the regular trash. They are dumping everything in together even though the residents put out the blue and green bins with things separated. There was then discussion on just what is recyclable. Max from the Greene School is working on this issue.

Save the Lakes will be having a free presentation/annual meeting at the Mishnock Barn, on Tuesday January 31 at 7:00 P.M. Janet Coit will be the Speaker.

**BIG RIVER:** The next meeting of The Concerned Citizens for Big River will be held on January 22 at 6:30 P.M. at the fire station on Route 3. Elaine McGuire has offered her assistance to try to research the material that has been jumbled together and that has all the historical background that is in danger of being discarded. There was discussion on how to go about this.

There is still a lot of dumping in the Big River area. There are a number of paint cans on Hopkins Hill Road, but the worst is a large amount of water jugs that have been dumped at the spot where Henry Brown Road becomes gravel that are filled with used motor oil and are not sealed. There was some question as to who should be contacted to pick them up.

**DARK SKIES:** Eastman stated that she had attended the forum in Charlestown. She said the film was good and showed how baby sea turtles get confused by light along beaches and so go toward the buildings instead of the sea and then die. Also, artificial light causes birds to fly into buildings. Light needs to be directed down to prevent light pollution. The Frosty Drews Observatory is open Friday nights, if the weather is clear.

**TOWN COUNCIL:** Things have been relatively quiet.

**PLANNING BOARD:** No report.

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**TREASURER'S REPORT:** There were no expenses, so the balance is \$1,183.97.

**WEB PAGES:** Madden has been in contact with the Planner about this.

**GREENE SCHOOL:** The student liaison will be working on the issue of recycling.

**RIACC:** It seems that we may have been chosen to do one of the ten-minute presentations at the Summit.

**EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP:** Dates were discussed, and a tentative date for April 21 was chosen. The Land Trust is planning theirs for Sunday, April 29.

**WORK PLAN:** Novak moved to accept the plan as presented at the last meeting. Bockes seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

Novak asked that the members think of ideas for Big River. Open space has numerous benefits both environmental and economic.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:55 P.M. Sundelin seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

*Sandra S. Bockes*

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

**FEBRUARY 2, 2012**

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on February 2, 2012. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Robert Zuleger, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Stephanie Madden.

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. Sundelin seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** There was a piece of mail from RIACC that had been sent on December 1st, and that was time-sensitive, that we did not receive until January 24! Bockes stated that there have been ongoing instances of mail not getting delivered in a timely fashion, or not at all.

There was notification from Meg Kerr that the new date for the Save The Lakes meeting at the Mishnock Barn is February 28.

Two of our members, Eastman and Bockes, did not receive the notice the Town had mailed to all residents on the State of the Town.

There was a notice on the Land Trust Earth Day Event to be held April 29.

Received an e-mail from Max Bromberg that he intends to do his project on recycling.

Stephanie Madden sent an e-mail tendering her resignation from the Commission due to other pressing obligations and an upcoming move. This leaves us short by one regular, and two alternate, members.

**NEWS/OBSERVATIONS/EVENTS:** The Land Trust Turkey Dinner and Silent Auction is March 24.

Novak suggests the following reading: Ode Magazine, Slow Money, and Rhode Island the Last Million Years.

Grube stated that there will be a new business opening up next to The Gentleman Farmer restaurant on Route 3 that will be selling renewable energy products that will also be relatively affordable.

In June, in Providence, there will be a convention of political bloggers.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** There were no expenses so the balance is still \$1,183.97.

**BIG RIVER:** The residents are still waiting for signed leases. Elaine McGuire needs volunteers to go through paperwork that has been jumbled all together. We're still collecting ideas for uses and management.

**BUDGET:** Novak moved to request level funding for the next fiscal year. Bockes seconded. Voted: unanimously (6-0) - Aye.

**EARTH DAY:** The Clean-Up will be Saturday, April 21. There was some concern expressed about the reduced size of the Park and Ride on Hopkins Hill Road. There were 180 people who signed in last year, and we know that not everyone who participated did sign in. Peter Gengler stated that there are no major house sites to do this year, but a large boat has been abandoned on the property. There was discussion on various items of logistics. Max Bromberg said that he could help coordinate The Greene School students.

Peter Gengler said there will be another Trail School on Friday May 11th about

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the economics of and managing user groups on trail systems. Properly built, maintained and managed trail systems can have very positive economic impacts on local businesses and the towns in which they are located.

**ADDITIONAL NEWS:** Novak mentioned that a group is working toward the goal of having an aquarium at the G-Tech complex.

Bockes mentioned an article she had seen regarding ciguatera, which is a rare type of food poisoning that can be gotten from eating certain fish. Although it used to be seen only in tropical areas, due to the globalization of our food supply and to tourism cases are now being seen in places like Ohio and Alaska. It is caused by a marine toxin, and some of the symptoms are pretty bizarre: the reversal of hot and cold sensations, for example.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:35 P.M. Eastman seconded. Voted: unanimously (6-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

*Sandra S. Bockes*

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

**MARCH 8, 2012**

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on March 8, 2012. Present were: Chairman Daniel Novak, Vice Chair Linda Eastman, Treasurer Clifton Sundelin, Commissioner Robert Zuleger, and Commissioner Christopher Grube. \* Secretary Sandra Bockes arrived at 8:00pm (These minutes were recorded by Linda Eastman due to initial absence of Secretary Bockes). Also present were: Peter Gengler, NEMBA; and Deanna Duncan, Greene School.

Chairman Novak called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

**MINUTES** \* see below

**CORRESPONDENCE** \*see below

**NEWS AND OBSERVATIONS**

Novak commented on the recent mid-west storms and questions whether the severe and early tornados recently hitting the Midwest are related to global warming.

Land, water, and conservation summit is this Sunday at URI.

Zuleger commented that the WGCC was not consulted over expansion of the Centrex building on Hopkins Hill Road. All trees were cut up to the Park and Ride area at Exit 6. Novak stated that he has spoken to the Town Planner, Jennifer Paquette and was told that an advisory opinion had already been rendered.

Zuleger stated that the National Guard, per order of the Department of Environmental Management, has placed boulders in front of access gates along Division Road and Hopkins Hill Road, blocking access to trails and area by emergency vehicles.

**EARTH DAY**

Novak discussed needs for upcoming Earth Day clean up. There are fewer "major" sites than in past years. More will be done along roadways.

Peter Gengler presented the WGCC with a check for \$500.00, from the New England Mountain Biking Association, to be used for the Earth Day event.

Mr. Gengler will make maps for the clean up sites.

The WGCC has about 90 litter bags and 35 pairs of gloves for the clean up event and will be seeking to purchase or seek donations of more.

Mr. Gengler states that the DEM will be supplying 3 dumpsters.

Zuleger recommends we seek a "Welcome to West Greenwich – Keep Our Town Clean" or similar sign to display along roadways.

**MINUTES-** A motion to accept the minutes of last months meeting was made at this time by Zuleger (with the arrival of Secretary Bockes.) 2nd by Grube. All in favor. Passed.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Bockes received a copy of the Public Notice from the Army Corp of Engineers, on current ACE policies related to water bodies and wetlands.

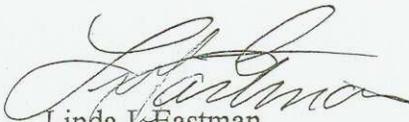
Novak – email from Sophie Labonte regarding earth day clean-up activities nationwide.

Zuleger discussed fracking technique being used in West and Pennsylvania and New York for natural gas.

There was discussion about the questionable advantages of programmable thermostats. Also, solar and wind power need battery for effective use- current life of batteries in 10-20 year range.

**BIG RIVER** – will be reviewing ACE guidelines

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** at 8:55pm by Zuleger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bockes. All in Favor. Passed unanimously.



Linda L. Eastman  
Vice Chair WGCC (filling in for Secretary Bockes)

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

**APRIL 5, 2012**

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on April 5, 2012. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Robert Zuleger.

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

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

**MINUTES:** There was discussion and several corrections to be made as well as clarification on certain items needed from member Zuleger. Novak moved to tentatively accept the Minutes with the amendments. Grube seconded. Voted: Novak, Eastman, Sundelin and Grube - Aye; Bockes - Abstain.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Greene School students are interested in doing the water monitoring

**NEWS/OBSERVATIONS/EVENTS:** We are looking for new members. Needed are one (1) regular member and two (2) alternates.

On April 14 there will be an Eco Depot at the Town Hall. They want people to make an appointment if at all possible.

April 21 is our Earth Day Clean-Up.

April 22, at 6:30 P.M. is the next Big River meeting.

April 29 is the Land Trust's Earth Day event at the Library.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** There was an expense of \$40.00, and a donation received for Earth Day from the New England Mountain Biking Association of \$500.00, so the balance is \$1,643.97.

**BIG RIVER:** Ideas are still being collected, but there are still a lot of questions unanswered.

**WEB PAGE:** The opinion was expressed that, unfortunately, probably not that many people go to the website. It was suggested that a facebook page could reach more people and mentioned that the Land Trust now has one. The idea was raised that perhaps it could be done as a closed loop. It was decided to table this for another time.

**GREENE SCHOOL:** Max Bromberg is working on a presentation about the waste stream in West Greenwich.

**RIACC:** The people who had attended the Summit spoke on their experiences. The consensus was that it was another excellent event with a marvelous keynote speaker and very interesting workshops. There was a sense that the various groups want to work together. One particular item that was mentioned was the Barrington Green Plan which is focused on sustainability and can be seen on line.

**WICKFORD JUNCTION:** The commuter rail line was brought up, and Peter Gengler spoke to why this is a good thing and explained that the plan is to ultimately have it go to Westerly and also from New York to Stonington, Connecticut.

**EARTH DAY CLEAN UP:** Novak had laminated some flyers to be put up; they have the same graphic on them as the shirts will. Peter Gengler stated that he sees more and more people using the trails. The Ocean State Jeepsters will be participating this year. There will be more roadside cleaning because there will not be the really big sites as in the past.

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There was additional discussion on other aspects of the Clean Up and on who would be taking care of what details.

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE:** Bockes mentioned that although we had not as yet gotten the notice/invitation for it that it was not too soon to be thinking about it and who might want to march this year.

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

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

*Sandra S. Bockes*

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

**MAY 3, 2012**

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on May 3, 2012. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Robert Zuleger.

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

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** There was an invitation to participate in the Memorial Day Parade. Bockes will send back the response that three (3) people will march carrying our banner.

The Greene School is looking for people to be on panels to hear student presentations and critique them.

The Natural History Survey Bio-Blitz is going on "as we speak".

The Power of Place Summit will take place, in Providence, on May 11, 2012.

There was a letter regarding DEM Tree Grants, but that is more geared toward cities and requires a large match.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The beginning balance was \$1,643.97. There were expenses of \$80.64 plus pending expenses of \$1,099.00. There were also donations for Earth Day of \$800.00. That will leave a balance of \$1,264.33.

**BIG RIVER:** The "Concerned Citizens for Big River" are continuing to meet, but the feeling is that the State just wants to get the remaining people out because it has failed to come forth with the promised leases. It seems that the DEM would be willing to take it over to manage, but not if there are tenants. They do not want to be landlords there, but Eastman pointed out that they are in other locations in the state. It is still to be hoped that any new management plan for the area will have significant input from the Town of West Greenwich.

**MAX BLOMBERG:** He reported that he had visited the Transfer Station and is working on a pamphlet for which he had a draft. Some suggestions were made to help with that. He said that the Resource Recovery Company will soon be able to recycle many more types and items of plastic. Novak showed us a pen that he had purchased at CVS, called a "B2 Pen", that is made from recycled bottles.

**EARTH CLEAN-UP:** Grube suggested that next year we see about separating the metal items in order to be able to recycle the aluminum and maybe scrap the steel because he had been able to do that with several items and got a check that he presented as another donation. He had further suggestions to continue the cleaning throughout the year which will be discussed more at a future time.

**LAND TRUST EARTH DAY:** Eastman and Bockes manned the booth. It was a good event, but no one showed interest in becoming a member.

**RIACC:** There will be a meeting on May 29 on regional issues. Novak reported that Harvey Buford is monitoring dry land legislation which, if passed, would force towns to accept greater density in developments no matter what their zoning and Comprehensive Plans said.

**FACEBOOK:** The idea of a facebook page was discussed. Novak stated that it is very hard to keep the RIACC website up to date. One person would need to run it.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 9:23 P.M. Eastman seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

*Sandra S. Bockes*

**A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY FROM LINDA EASTMAN AT OUR MAY 3, 2012 MEETING**

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."

Antoine de Saint-Exupery, author and aviator (1900-1945)

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

**JUNE 7, 2012**

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on June 7, 2012. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Robert Zuleger.

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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Everyone had received an invitation to The Greene School's 100-Mile Radius Dinner which is being held on June 15th.

The Bioneers conference is October 19th to 21st.

The Rhode Island Soil Survey Work planning Conference, held at URI Coastal Institute, is June 28th.

There will be a "Transition the Ocean State Training" on August 18th.

There is United Nations report on the condition of the environment around the globe which indicates goals are not being met and a tipping point is approaching.

There was an e-mail from The Climate Reality Project which supports a Carbon Pollution Standard to limit carbon pollution in the United States.

There were two fact sheets from RIACC against the so-called Dry Lands Act which could be very detrimental to towns both environmentally and economically.

"Toward a future that makes sense" is an on-line report by David Roberts.

There was an Audubon Society newsletter that is also very much against the "Dry Lands Bill".

**NEWS & OBSERVATIONS:** There will be a Summit on Open Government in late July.

There were comments and concerns on the changing weather patterns and their effects on people, the environment and the economy.

Novak commented on the 38 Studios fiasco and its effect on the State. This was essentially another form of gambling. All that money, if it had been spread around to multiple smaller companies in the local communities could have done far more good for everyone throughout the State.

The Wednesday night programs have started again at the Kettle Pond Visitor's Center and will run through August. They are free, but donations are welcome.

There has been a recent black bear sighting in the Big River area. Elaine and Bob McGuire, who were attending the meeting, stated that they had seen bears on several occasions in the area, so were not surprised at this one.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The starting balance was \$1,264.33. There was a deposit of \$58.75 from scrap metal collected by Grube at the Clean Up. There were expenses of \$100.00 for RIACC dues, \$500.00 for the Watershed Watch (which is an increase of 25% over last year that we had not expected), \$100.00 for the use of the Mishnock Barn for the Clean Up lunch, \$119.40 for S&T Hardware for Bags at cost for the Clean Up and \$121.97 to reimburse the Secretary for supplies. The ending balance is \$381.71.

**BIG RIVER:** There has been a lot more dumping since the Clean Up. We are still working on recommendations for a Management Plan. The question was

raised as to who is responsible for the soccer fields located in Coventry. Elaine McGuire stated that the Town of Coventry has a lease for them with the Water Resources Board and that the town maintains them. Bockes reminded everyone that the Town of East Greenwich also has a small piece of Big River.

**GREENE SCHOOL:** Both Novak and Bockes had participated in student "passages" presentations, which were their personal statements showing their awareness of their own learning process. Novak felt they were very impressive.

**DRY LANDS BILL:** If this is passed, it could be a disaster for towns.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** This is still being researched.

**PAMPHLET:** Max Bromberg had a draft. There was much discussion and laying out. Bockes moved to authorize about \$300.00 for printing. Grube seconded. Voted; unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

**REVIEW:** APPLICATION BY COAST TO COAST HOLDINGS, INC FOR A ZONING MAP CHANGE  
Bockes stated that she had called the company to invite them to attend our meeting, but it was noted that no one had accepted the invitation. Novak stated that they seem to be well underway even prior to getting the change. Both Eastman and Grube feel that there should be less impact from storm water and that the additional impervious surfaces should be well handled by the planned storm water basin. Bockes noted that this property is not listed on the Conservation Inventory as being of particular value. There was concern that there should be downward lighting and appropriate vegetative buffers. This change would return the property to its original zoning. The current use, warehousing, is to be expanded and continued. There is no manufacturing and/or other polluting activity taking place and none anticipated, so it is a low-impact business which is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning for the area and the Town, and it should be an economic benefit for both this business and the Town.

Bockes moved to recommend to the Town Council, for the above reasons, that it Approve this Application for a Zoning Map Change. Sundelin seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 9:33 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

JULY 5, 2012

III. CORRESPONDENCE  
2. CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION 07/05

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on July 5, 2012. Present were: Daniel Novak, Clifford Sundelin and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Linda Eastman, Robert Zuleger and Christopher Grube.

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

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

**NEWS & OBSERVATIONS:** Novak reported that at the "Rio + 20" International Conference nothing of substance was agreed to by the nations, which throws it back to local initiatives.

Novak showed a heat graphic showing that so far 1,011 heat records have been broken this year in the USA. The corn crop which had been on track to be the best ever is now threatened.

There was a Projo article about Senator Whitehouse's report on the safety of fresh water fish caught in Rhode Island.

**SOLAR FARM:** A solar farm has been proposed for a portion of Big John Leyden's Tree Farm. Two abutters, Joel Peterson and Gary Speciale, came to us with some of their concerns about having this behind their houses. They wondered why this would be proposed for a residential area and expressed concern for their property values. There is the question as to whether there are any hazardous materials in any of the equipment that could leach into the ground and pollute wells. After a fairly long discussion, it was determined that far more information is needed before we could even begin to form an opinion about this for any kind of advisory to any other board.

**MINUTES:** Novak moved to accept the Minutes as written. Sundelin seconded. Voted: unanimously (3-0) - Aye.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** There were several e-mails on Climate Change.

There is to be a Green Market Festival on August 12 from 10:00 to 4:00 at the Farmer's Daughter, 716 Moorsefield Road (Route 138 a little past Route 108).

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The starting balance was \$381.71. There were expenses of \$256.80, which leaves a final balance of \$124.91.

**BIG RIVER:** Zuleger had reported that the vacant homes are being demolished and the rubble just left in heaps, so he is concerned that it is being done in a shoddy way. Unless there will be others who will come in and clean up the piles and remove them for disposal, the rubble will remain as hazardous conditions on which people could be hurt. Also, the remaining residents are still in limbo as the promised leases have still not been brought to them to be signed.

**"DRY LANDS" BILL:** For the time being this disastrous bill has been defeated. Towns need to remain vigilant as it could come up again next year.

**WEBSITE:** Nothing to report.

**PAMPHLET:** The pamphlet being worked on by Max Bromberg with this Commission for his Greene School project has been completed and printed. It is on trash recycling and will be placed at the Town Hall and Library.

**FILM:** Later in the year the Commission would like to sponsor a film and discussion in the new Community Center. Novak said that the film comes highly recommended by the Town Planner.

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**AUGUST MEETING:** After discussion, Sundelin moved to not meet on the 2nd of August unless required to do so because of a request to render an advisory opinion. Bockes seconded. Voted: unanimously (3-0) - Aye.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 9:30 P.M. Sundelin seconded. Voted: unanimously (3-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

*Sandra S. Bockes*

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING

3. CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 6, 2012

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on September 6, 2012. Present were: Daniel Novak, Robert Zuleger, Clifton Sundelin, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Linda Eastman. Guests present were: Brett Mayette, Mary Hastings and Tom Carroccia.

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

There were no requests for advisory opinions.

**NEWS & OBSERVATIONS:** The Bioneers Conference will be held, in New Bedford, from October 26 to 28.

Bockes passed out copies of an article from the Providence Journal on the Asian Longhorned Beetle. It is not here yet, but it is important to be vigilant as it is extremely destructive.

There was discussion on the changing weather patterns around the country and the world with floods in one place and droughts in others.

**MINUTES:** Bockes apologized that she had written "Cliford" rather than "Clifton" for Commissioner Sundelin's name. Sundelin moved to accept the Minutes as written with that one correction. Novak seconded. Voted: Novak, Sundelin and Bockes - Aye; Zuleger and Grube - Abstain.

**WILD PLANTS:** Mr. Mayette spoke about the wild foods cooking classes he gives at Casey Farm and about a book, Invasive Plant Medicine, that he recommends very highly. Among other things, he touted the use of Japanese Knotweed for the resveratrol in it. Ms. Hastings also spoke about her herbal business and the store she has in Providence called "Farmacy Herbs".

**SOLAR FARM:** It was noted that the Zoning Board had approved the request to put a solar farm on part of Big John Leyden's Christmas Tree Farm. It must still go before the Planning Board for all approvals for construction, etc.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** We are starting the new fiscal year with a balance of \$1,200.00.

**BIG RIVER:** Concern was expressed for the way the residents have been dealt with by the State. Due to the fact that many of them are quite elderly, it seems that a more sensitive way could have been used.

Tree trimming in the area has been done very badly so that the effect will be that a number of the trees will probably just die and be more of a problem, and in the meantime they look terrible.

Zuleger noted that he knows of at least three homeless men that are living in the woods in the area.

**STATE & REGIONAL:** Grow Smart will be holding its Land Use Planning Conference on September 25.

**WEBSITE:** There was brief discussion and still interest in a Facebook page. The hope was expressed that a new member might have the skills to be able to accomplish that.

**LAND TRUST:** Their next event will be at the Plain Meeting House, on September 30 from 12:00 to 5:00. We will have an exhibit there.

**RECYCLING:** Zuleger stated that he often sees people mixing recyclables with their ordinary trash. Having spoken with one of these people, he feels that many people may not know that the town could get more money if more people recycled, and that could also help to keep the taxes lower. Bockes stated

**WGCC REGULAR MEETING, SEPTEMBER 6, 2012, PAGE 2:**

that our surveys have repeatedly shown that the thing people most value in the town and most want to preserve is its rural nature, so for us to be doing so poorly in recycling is puzzling. Zuleger stated that once he talked more to the individual he had spoken to and explained about the reimbursement to the towns and that we are being penalized by not meeting the targets for recycling, the person told him he simply didn't know about that. We would have hoped that people would want to recycle simply to help the environment, but if they'll do it for whatever reason then that's a good thing. The question was raised as to whether all the private trash haulers are recycling and whether they are submitting reports to the town about that.

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

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Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

*Sandra S. Bockes*

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 4, 2012**

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on October 4, 2012. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Robert Zuleger, Clifton Sundelin, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Also present were: Robert and Elaine McGuire, Kathy Swann and Lisa Tomasso.

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

There were no requests for advisory opinions.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Novak had received an e-mail from Kathy Swann asking about Artillery Fungus. Bockes presented some research on it, and Zuleger stated that he sees it all the time in his work. It has become a huge problem due to the fact that most mulch put around houses now is chipped or shredded wood instead of bark, and the wood mulch is a perfect medium for the fungus to grow on. Once the spores get on a house or car they are nearly impossible to remove, and the fungus can shoot the spores some eighteen (18) feet away from itself. The best way to not get it is to use only non-organic or pure pine bark mulch.

**NEWS & OBSERVATIONS:** The Big River group will be meeting on Sunday, October 7 at 6:30 P.M. The focus now will be on protecting the area.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** There was an expense of \$5.52 which leaves a balance of \$1,194.48.

**WATERSHED WATCH:** Lake Mishnock is being monitored.

**LAND TRUST EVENT:** The Celebrate West Greenwich event held on September 30 was very nice. We appreciated their allowing us to join them under their canopy. Our display included information on recycling and the artillery fungus. We also were looking for new members. Bockes suggested we look into the possibility of getting prices on a canopy for such events in the future. The brand "E-Z Up" was mentioned.

**STATE & REGIONAL:** There will be a DEM meeting on November 29. There has been a proposal to put the DEM under the State Economic Commission. The various members of the Commission and guests expressed concern at this idea.

**FACEBOOK:** There was brief discussion.

**MORE OBSERVATIONS:** Novak mentioned the people who had been at the Land Trust event with a kestrel and a screech owl. They are from a wildlife rescue facility. Due to injuries these two birds cannot go back to the wild, but they are two of the predators that help keep the mouse population in check, which helps to keep the tick population down, which means less ticks to be able to transmit Lyme Disease to people and pets, which points to the connections in ecology.

**BIG RIVER:** A green waste disposal facility is being proposed for the area that had been used for temporary parking for Amgen. Although this is one of fifty (50) sites around the State being proposed, this property was taken for the production of water for human consumption and that is still its primary purpose. Any type of development that could possibly contribute to the contamination of the aquifer, which chipping equipment and additional heavy truck traffic could do, should not be allowed. Keeping the property in

**WGCC REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 4, 2012, PAGE 2:**

Open Space protects not only the water resource but also the wildlife. The large open area where Amgen had parked and where military exercises sometimes take place is particularly necessary to the woodcock population according to studies done by Mr. Roger J. Masse, which he had presented to us at our November 3, 2011 meeting. Installing any type of equipment there would not only destroy the woodcock's habitat but the habitat for other species that are under its umbrella.

Zuleger stated that the current person who is demolishing the vacated houses in the Management Area is doing a good job. Once the houses are gone sewage sludge is being spread over the sites. There was some concern about that. Mr. McGuire said that if it is coming from West Warwick it probably isn't a problem, but if it is coming from somewhere else it could have heavy metals or other contaminants in it.

There was further discussion on the hope that West Greenwich will be able to have a part in any management plan for the area as it is about a third of the town. Any use other than for the production of water or for Open Space should not be allowed because, as Mr. McGuire stated, Big River is the fall-back for the State in the event the Scituate Reservoir were compromised.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 9:03 P.M. Zuleger seconded. Voted: unanimously (6-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

*Sandra S. Bockes*

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 8, 2012**

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on November 8, 2012. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin, Christopher Grube and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Robert Zuleger.

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

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The proposed schedule for 2013 had been presented by the Clerk. Bockes moved to tentatively accept the schedule but that she would clarify the August date with the Clerk. Eastman seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

There was notification from RIDEM on a meeting on Green Economy/Land Conservation/Water/ Climate Change to be held at their building on Promenade Street.

**NEWS & OBSERVATIONS:** There was discussion on the implications of Hurricane Sandy. Coastal areas were devastated even though this was not that strong a storm. Novak made the point that the current way of issuing flood insurance allows people to rebuild in these areas at the expense of the taxpayers. He also mentioned that there is a group of veterans, called Team Rubicon, that will go in to help with these types of crises.

All the bond issues passed at the election.

Grube mentioned that he had seen where the Truck Stop is in receivership.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** There were no expenses so the balance is still \$1,194.98.

**LAND/WATER/CONSERVATION SUMMIT:** This will take place in March 2013. Some of the subjects are Emergency Management and Affordable Housing as it affects conservation issues. Ken Burke is to be a speaker.

**WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA:** Nothing to report.

**MEMBERSHIP:** We still need one regular and two alternate members.

**CANOPIES:** Research seems to show that the E-Z UP brand is the best type.

**BIG RIVER:** The next meeting of the Concerned Citizens for Big River will be on November 11, at 6:30 P.M. Eastman read a draft of a letter being worked on for the Council. The Town should have input into any plan for the area.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:10 P.M. Sundelin seconded. Voted: unanimously (5-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary

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

**DECEMBER 6, 2012**

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Conservation Commission was held on December 6, 2012. Present were: Daniel Novak, Linda Eastman, Clifton Sundelin and Sandra Bockes. Absent: Robert Zuleger and Christopher Grube.

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

There were no requests for advisory reviews.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** There will be a Natural History Survey potluck dinner on December 11, from 6:00 to 8:30 P.M.

**NEWS & OBSERVATIONS:** The RIDEM will be having a seminar on "partners for environmental progress". It is on the green economy and exactly what businesses actually are green.

There was discussion on problems with "fracking" and how it can and has caused serious pollution of people's water supplies/wells.

The question as to whether or not genetically modified food is safe was raised.

The next Big River meeting will be on Sunday, January 13, 2013.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** There were no expenses so the balance is still \$1,194.48. The request from LMPA for \$1,500.00 for treating the weeds in Lake Mishnock was presented.

**RIACC:** The results from their on-line survey of three (3) Monkey Questions will be presented at the March Summit.

**WEBSITE:** Nothing to report.

**BIG RIVER:** Novak passed out copies of a message he had received from Ken Burke regarding the planned new land management plan for the Big River Management Area and the possibility of partnering with us to accomplish this. Bockes stated that this would be an incredible opportunity and what we have been hoping for and moved to agree and offer to help the WRB in whatever way possible. Eastman seconded. Voted: unanimously (4-0) - Aye.

In addition, a letter is needed proposing Clifton Sundelin for a position on the WRB. He has the background they are looking for and would be a voice from West Greenwich, if accepted. The Secretary will do this.

Eastman had drafts of possible letters for the Council. After some editing, Novak moved to send one to the Council. Bockes seconded. Voted: unanimously (4-0) - Aye.

Bockes moved to adjourn at 8:17 P.M. Sundelin seconded. Voted: unanimously (4-0) - Aye.

Sandra S. Bockes, Secretary WGCC

*Sandra S. Bockes*