

LONG BEACH WEST BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 25, 2012

The Mayor's Long Beach West Blue Ribbon Commission conducted a meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 in room 213 of Stratford Town Hall, 2715 Main Street, Stratford, CT pursuant to notice duly posted.

Commission Members in Attendance - Chairman Patrick Gribbon, Milan Bull, Morgan Kaolian, Marcia Stewart, John Zbell; Non-voting members Brian Carey - Conservation Officer, Carol Szymanski – DEEP, Capt. Joseph McNeil - Stratford Police

Commission Members Absent - Devin Santa, Edward Scinto; Non-voting members: Sharon Marino & Andrew French - US Fish & Wildlife

Others in Attendance — Residents Walter and Rita Rimkunas, Joe Koripski of 81 Burritt Ave. Stratford, *Stratford Star* Editor John Kovach, Sandy Breslin of CT Audubon

Documents distributed during meeting:

- (1) Long Beach West/Long Beach Priority List in order w/attachments of: Existing conditions Map, Long Beach West Task Force Recommendations of 2004, Long Beach-Great Meadows-Lewis gut Management area section of Stratford Harbor Management Plan of 2004
- (2) Proposed Stewardship Vision for use of Conservation of Long Beach (draft for discussion purposes only)

1. **Call to Order** - Chairman Gribbon called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes** — November 17, 2011

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. ZBELL SECONDED BY MS. STEWART TO APPROVE THE FOREGOING MINUTES. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Correspondence** — None

4. **Committee Reports/Reviews**

Mr. Gribbon reviewed above-cited document (1), Long Beach West Task Force's recommendations of 2004 in connection with the following:

- Existing conditions, location, description of property, Pleasure Beach development, existing beach cottages
- Recommended low intensity recreational uses such as hiking, biking, swimming/sunbathing, bird watching, fishing, water-based recreational aquatic activities, picnicking
- Conservation uses such as protection of wildlife, bird life and shellfish, educational programs, possible nature center, beach and dune management programs, clean-up efforts
- Quality of Lewis Gut/Breaching the beach

Mr. Carey stated that some of the recommendations from the 2004 report have been done. \$53,000 is available in grant money for implementation of removing invasive plant species. Once the invasive species is removed, dune grass planting will be done as part of the management plan. He went on to state that, with the road removed, the beach has limited access.

Mr. Zbell asked if U.S. Fish and Wildlife have put forth any efforts into reporting their proposal for leasing/managing the property. Mr. Gribbon stated that Stratford wants to retain ownership of the property, but he will be meeting with Andy French soon to discuss and written proposal and report back to the commission. Mr. Carey pointed out that US Fish and Wildlife gave the Town \$1,000,000 for improvements.

The Commission's vision, recommendations, future use of property, conservation, partnerships, funding through existing sources, goal setting and priorities over the next decade and plans for perpetuity were discussed.

Mr. Gribbon then reviewed excerpted portions of the Stratford Harbor Management Plan in connection with Long beach such as:

- Priority uses and management objectives
- Water access opportunities
- Long Beach management units
- Protection of coastal resources
- Erosion control
- Derelict vessels and structures
- Coordination with Bridgeport

Above-cited Document (2) pointed out the Goals of the Stewardship Vision such as Public recognition of coastal resources and values, active management of Long Beach to guild use and conservation, recognition of ecological systems, management coordination and partnerships, public interest, support, and awareness, management balance, Public health/safety/welfare, public use and enjoyment, environmental conservation and enhancement, sustainable economic benefits, understanding resource carrying capacity, effective shoreline management, educational and scientific uses, effective planning, effective regulations to guide use and development, cultural enrichment, personal actions for effective stewardship, funding and effective response to changing conditions.

Mr. McNeil brought up the issue of vandalism, isolation of the area, and Mr. Koalian's proposal for 24-hour security of the area. The form of security, to allow someone to live on the premises, was attempted at Roosevelt Forest and failed. Surveillance was discussed.

Both Messrs. McNeil and Carey conveyed Stratford's disaster management plan as it was conducted during tropical storm Irene. Mr. Carey stated that Long Beach West responded as the text book example of a barrier beach during the Storm. Parking lot expansion at Long Beach was discussed.

5. **Old Business and 6. New Business** — None

7. **Other** – Mr. Gribbon urges all Commission members to read the two above-cited documents and send him your comments by February 10 so he can prepare the comments for discussion and revision at the next meeting; focusing on (1)The Vision Stewardship, (2) Strategy for accomplishment, (3) Consensus & Endorsement , (4) Implementation. Mr. Gribbon will call a special meeting for February.

8. **Adjournment** - There being no other matters to discuss, Mr. Koalian made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stewart and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Cabral - Secretary

LONG BEACH WEST/LONG BEACH PRIORITY LIST IN ORDER 11-17-2011

1. Entryway improvements/New plantings (47)
2. Overall planting review with improvement & removal of invasive species (54)
3. Security cameras for 24 hour surveillance (58)
4. Dune walkover fencing & signage established (66)
5. Replace snow fences previously set on Long Beach (75)
6. Parking lot expansion/improvement with defined/striped parking spaces (78)
7. Comfort station/changing area & restrooms (78)
8. Kayak & canoe launching area (83)
9. Boardwalk 1320' similar to new Milford walkway (87)
10. Define & protect property line between Bridgeport's Pleasure Beach & LBW (87)
11. Establish a liaison with the Bridgeport parks Department & Stantec Consulting with regard to their Pleasure Beach Master Plan (89)
12. Sand restoration/replacement & improvement creating a more attractive beach area (91)
13. Signage for educational/historical & wildlife conservation knowledge (92)
14. Signage for instructional and regulatory information for the area (93)
15. Gazebo at the end of the boardwalk/with rooftop overlook (109)
16. Walkway defined from the end of the boardwalk to the end of the property(108)
17. Overlooks on boardwalk with free optic equipment for viewing of the area(109)
18. Pavilion at the end of the property to be used for conservation education programs & camping a facility(131)