

Conservation Commission Regular Meeting July 14, 2016

The meeting opened at 7:20 PM with the following in attendance:

MEMBERS:

Melissa Leonard
Shagufta Zahid
Felipe Flores
Christine Yannielli

OTHERS:

Burgess Carl Herb
Dorothy Daniels
Jennifer Siskind

1. Call the meeting to order and pledge of allegiance.
2. VOTED unanimously on a motion to **APPROVE** the minutes of the last meeting of 6/9/16.

New Business

1. Dorothy Daniels is offering to donate a half acre of land to either the Naugatuck Land Trust or the town with a conservation easement. The land is on Evelyn Drive and provides access to the Larkin State Bridle Trail. It was suggested, if the property is adjacent to the town-owned land that runs along the Bridle Trail, that she donate it to the town with a conservation easement rather than the Land Trust. Melissa will research it, consult with Mrs. Daniels and report to the commission in August.
2. Jennifer Siskind from Food & Water Watch gave a presentation about the dangers of fracking waste. Including details on the creation its creation and the source of its toxicity. Leaks from the process tend to contaminate soil and water. Over 700 different chemicals have been identified in the brine (water released from the process) and hundreds of millions of gallons of it are produced every year. Horizontal drilling has exponentially increased the toxicity of fracking waste and the brine, especially from the Marcellus Shale in PA, contains radioactive materials including Radium 266.

Because the oil & gas industry is not subject to many EPA regulations, the federal government has little power to regulate the production and handling of fracking waste; therefore, states and municipalities are left to regulate it themselves. The state of CT currently has a statewide ban on fracking waste that is scheduled to expire in 2017. Food & Water Watch is encouraging individual municipalities to adopt their own bans in case the statewide ban is not renewed. In other states, the waste is being used as fill for construction projects and winter road treatment. An increasing number of towns in CT, including Washington, Coventry, Portland and Mansfield, have adopted regulations banning fracking waste from use and established fines for violations.

There are three toxic waste facilities in CT (Bridgeport, Bristol and Meriden) that can accept fracking waste. Once the waste is processed to an acceptable level, the highly concentrated by-product can then be sent to non-toxic waste processing facilities. Unfortunately, these facilities don't remove radioactive materials; so any that is left is released into the environment at the end of the process.

A compendium created by the Physicians for Social Responsibility (<http://www.psr.org/resources/fracking-compendium.html>) offers summaries of studies and articles that have been done on fracking. Reports on the radiation of fracking waste can also be found at www.grassrootsinfo.org.

Next meeting will be on August 11th at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.