

City of Shelton, Conservation Commission
 Minutes for the Regular Meeting on Wednesday February 6, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.
 Minutes should be considered a draft version until approved by CC at their next meeting.

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Call to Order

Present: Tom Harbinson, Chairman
Bill Dyer, Vice-Chairman
Jim Tate, Commissioner
Hank Lauriat, Commissioner
Ed McCreery, Commissioner
Joe Welsh, Commissioner

The Commission currently has 6 active members.

Also Present: Teresa Gallagher, Conservation Agent
Marianne Chaya, Clerk

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Harbinson called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Harbinson stated that there is one item he wants to add to the Quality of Life list that relates to a property someone is potentially interested in selling to the City. We will discuss that in Executive session.

B. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to approve the minutes from the January 2, 2008 Regular meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Lauriat. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

C. Public Portion

None

D. Trails Committee Report

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported as follows:

1. National Trails Day – June 7 & 8

We have filed the registration form and will continue with the same type of activities. We will have the bridge-to-bridge hike on June 7. Terry Gallagher has agreed to be the leader of the event.

2. Planned Projects for 2008

A. Rec Path – Phase I Specifications

I talked with Jim Tate today who gave me the changes to the statement of work and has been passed on to Terry Gallagher. The key is getting the map done so that we can get a contractor. This is for the completion of the trail from Pine Lake to Route 108.

B. Rec Path – Phase 2

A couple of weeks ago we created the Rec path route from Route 108 around the white house to connect to the existing trail. It needs to be upgraded and some things need to be removed. The Trails Committee would like to have the white house as their Nature Center.

C. Rec Path – Phase 3

Our goal is to get Lane Street to the new boardwalk upgraded. We will need a wetlands permit. Commissioner Welsh offered to help with getting the quotes after the wetlands permit. We are still working on how to use the \$60K from Huntington Woods.

D. 2007/2008 Recreation Trails Grant Application

It is still in process and we are waiting for the state historian to give their input.

E. \$2500 State Grant Status

We received samples of logo designs for the Rec Path from Peter Stockmal and the Trails Committee members voted on their favorite design. The samples were passed around and the Commission members voted on their favorites (design G). After a long discussion they determined they would pay Peter Stockmal for the design and this design could be used for t-shirts, mugs, brochures, as well as for the trail markers. At a later time we would decide the types of signs we need and would talk to him again.

Commissioner Tate MOVED to authorize Vice-Chairman Dyer to contact Peter Stockmal to find out what is involved in securing the rights to the logo the Commission decided upon (design G). SECONDED by Vice Chairman Dyer. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

F. New bridge over Curtis Brook

We will go before the Inland Wetlands Commission to get a permit at their next meeting for a revision to the original design.

G. Riverwalk Design

We will be attending the informational meeting on February 20.

H. Trail along driving range and behind hockey rink

We got them to build the trail behind the hockey rink and we are going to suggest a Boy Scout project to clear out the invasive species. Commissioner Tate suggested to email the request to him and he will forward it on to the Boy Scout council.

I. Trail at Old Master's Site – Route 110 & Far Mill River

They agreed it would be done between now and the spring.

J. Connect Blue Dot Trail to Shelton Lakes

We are going to flag the area from Route 110 to Mayflower Rd. this Saturday. After it is done we will go to the BOA to make our proposal for the official trail location.

K. Gates – Abbey Wright

We are still waiting to hear from the “gate” guy.

L. Trails Maintenance

We would like to get the Gator hydraulic dump. I would like a motion authorizing us to get it, not to exceed \$800.

Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to authorize the Trails Committee to be able to add the Gator hydraulic dump for moving wood chips, millings, etc. Funding is not to exceed \$800 and would come from the consolidation grant. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

E. Review of P&Z Applications for Subdivisions and/or Developments

1. OLD APPLICATIONS

A. Twisted Vine Estates, PZC 07-38, IWC 07-23, East Village Rd.

Open space property lines pinned and signed per the new standard procedure. Conservation easements are not pinned. Rick Schultz has called the developer to clarify that these need to be pinned as well.

B. Avalon Bay II, PZC 07-16 – Bridgeport Ave/Huntington Street

Received a complaint through Randy York that someone saw a trees being cut with the conservation easement signs on. They put the signs up

too fast. They had site plan approval to do construction in the area and had put the signs up first and then cut the trees. Chairman Harbinson reported that it has been taken care of.

2. NEW APPLICATIONS

None

F. Shelton Canal – Proposal to fill canal for residential development

Chairman Harbinson reported that Agent Gallagher has created a web page. Related documents posted on

www.sheltonopenspace.googlepages.com/sheltoncanal

Recommendations would be discussed in Executive Session.

Agent Gallagher stated she received something from the Army Corps that they might be willing to have a public meeting, which is different from public hearing. The public meeting allows discussion. This was forwarded to the Mayor's office.

G. Ivy Brook Open Space

Acceptance of property for open space at end of Ivy Brook Rd. (Map 65 Lot 24). 4.20 acres associated with the Bluestone project. Agent Gallagher pointed out the area where people have been dumping. President John Anglace said he has been talking with the Mayor, who is not happy about the City having to keep cleaning up. This property should not be an issue. This property is the last parcel of the developer's site and was a requirement to give this to the City as open space. It is now before the BOA to accept it as the open space. The Mayor raised some concern over this property because of the dumping and asked for our recommendation.

Commissioner Tate MOVED to recommend the parcel, known as Map 65, Lot 24, be accepted as open space to the Board of Aldermen. SECONDED by Commissioner McCreery. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Vice-Chairman Dyer commented that there would be a public hearing on changing the zoning for the downtown area north of the canal locks from an R-4 to a R-1. There will be a meeting on February 26. Rick Schultz said that he is hopeful that our Commission would send a letter recommending this change. The Commissioners reviewed the drawing left for them to review.

Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to have Agent Gallagher write a letter of support for the zone change from R-4 to R-1 as shown in the Planning & Zoning application for the downtown area north of the canal locks to be presented at the February 26, 2008 public hearing. This supports the potential for less dense development along the Housatonic River greenway. SECONDED by Commissioner Lauriat. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Tape 1, Side B

H. Conservation Agent Report

Agent Gallagher reported on the following:

Community Resource Inventory Committee

We have been meeting once a month and have been working on the scenic resources the members have come up with. We are noting the attributes for each scenic resource.

Open Space Draft Maps

Regis is looking for comments on the greenways from the Commissioners. The maps are online at <http://sheltonopenspace.googlepages.com>

The Commissioners would review this at the end of the meeting.

Commissioner Lauriat asked if at some point in time someone could take maps to the Police Dept. and explain the open space and land trust areas. The only map at the Police Dept. is a black & white street map. Agent Gallagher suggested that she could have Regis print copies to send over once the trails are on there and to also send it to the EMS. Commissioner Lauriat suggested that when the Land Trust group has their annual meeting representatives of the police and other depts. Attend where it could be explained the difference between open space and land trust. Other topics could be explaining development rights and if properties are open for passage, etc.

Open Space Trust Account

The balance is \$359,762.00.

Fee in Lieu of Payments

No change

Litter Committee

A citywide litter clean-up "Shelton Clean Sweep 2008" has been scheduled for the week of Earth Day. Website is at <http://sheltoncleansweep.googlepages.com> Cleanup of open space areas and Land keeper program will be incorporated into the event. If any group has an activity proposed to email it to her and she will update the website.

Webb Mountain Discovery Zone & security camera

Monroe received \$35,000 in contributions from area businesses to build an "outdoor classroom" and scavenger hunt at their new park on Webb Circle near the Shelton town line. They installed low-cost security cameras that are

marketed for hunters, protected by a “bear-box”. The boxes are bolted to tree up high. Information about their setup was requested from the Monroe Conservation Commission chairman, who forwarded the equipment descriptions: Reconyx Rapid Fire RC55 IR Game Camera (\$550) and Heavy Duty Bear Box (\$150). They use an additional 4 GB memory card to store the photos. Agent Gallagher showed the brochure you would get at this park for the scavenger hunt and explained it.

Notable Tree

Documentation was found and filed for the registered Tulip tree located on the French’s Farm open space. It is located about 200 yards off of Sagamore Dr.

Deer Stands

Two complaints of deer stands were received. The first is reportedly very active on or near the Klapik property. The stand has not yet been located by staff. The second is near the Turkey Trot Trail/Rec Path. Terrance Gallagher checked the stand and reported that it was not recently used. Parks & Rec was asked to remove the stand.

Plastic BB’s

Jason Perillo asked for information about other towns having problems with plastic BB’s. A request was placed on the CACIWC list serve, which generated comments from people in Oxford and Stonington.

Paugusset Trail

Requested trail be added to Mail-A-Maps.

Filing Status

Continuation of filing the materials from Harriet Wilber, John Anglace and the Gallagher’s. There are about 6 boxes to be filed.

Open Space Marker designs

Agent Gallagher requested a decision from the Commission regarding the holes. Discussion ensued and the result was that we would drill holes wherever we need them and the best type of nail is a roofing nail. The material would be round and plastic.

Open Space maintenance project list

This list was given to Dean Cawthra, as this is the slow time of year for his crew:

1. Repair ruts and potholes at Shelton Lakes parking areas (Pine Lake, Constitution Blvd No., Nell’s Rock Road at Hope Lake).
2. Remove deer stand at Shelton Lakes near Rec Path and Turkey Trot Trail

3. Clear thick brush behind Riverview Park small ball field (Riverview Trail goes behind the fence)
4. Add a garbage can at the Nells Rock Road parking area (across from L'Hermitage)
5. Add a pull-off parking area (millings) at Huntington Street near Maple Lane, where people pull over and get stuck in the mud.
6. Wiacek Property: Haul out large amounts of debris that was on the property when we purchased it (in ditches). Note: This MUST be done ONLY when the ground is very frozen in winter or extremely dry in Aug/Sept. The hayfield and access road are very, very muddy and vehicles can sink a foot. Also: grade out the pile of topsoil that is near Meadow Street (again, must be done when ground is either frozen or parched).
7. Remove trees at Lane Street where Rec Path comes out onto the road.
8. Fill in two test pit holes at Big Horn open space near Pine Tree Hill Road.

I. Communications

- Map from Tracey Lewis of the survey of Lane Street. The Commissioners were ok with the work and Chairman Harbinson will authorize payment of the invoice.
- CACIWC newsletter
- Letter from Jason Perillo regarding the airsoft biodegradable pellets

J. Quality of Life - Executive Session

Commissioner McCreery MOVED to go into Executive Session at 8:20 P.M. for the purposes of discussing land acquisition issues. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

Commissioner McCreery MOVED to return to regular session at 8:43 P.M. SECONDED by Commissioner Lauriat. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Chairman Harbinson MOVED to send a letter to the Mayor regarding a piece of property discussed in Executive Session that it would be appropriate to look into acquisition of the property because it is one of the greenways and abuts some of our other City Open Space. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

K. Comments By Members

Agent Gallagher stated that all the logo design samples were very cool. Commissioner Tate gave his comments regarding the Riverwalk to Agent Gallagher to submit at the next public meeting and the Commissioners spent time discussion some of his points.

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Commissioner Tate commented that his firm is doing a study of the Derby/Shelton Bridge to see what could be done to make this bridge more attractive. Vice-Chairman Dyer said that his trails committee discussed how the trail would go under the Derby/Shelton Bridge. The Commissioners decided to stay after adjournment and review the greenway map.

L. Adjournment

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, March 5, 2008.

Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to adjourn. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Conservation Commission