

City of Shelton, Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 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: Bill Dyer, Vice-Chairman
Joe Welsh, Commissioner
Sheri Dutkanicz, Commissioner
Jim Goodman, Commissioner
Jim Tate, Commissioner
Ed McCreery, Commissioner

Also

Present: Teresa Gallagher, Conservation Agent
Terry Gallagher, Trails Committee
Marianne Chaya, Clerk

A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Chairman Dyer called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:15 p.m. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chairman Dyer stated that Chairman Harbinson is absent tonight due to a medical issue.

B. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner McCreery MOVED to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2012 Regular meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

C. Public Portion (items not on agenda)

Guy Beardsley, 276 Leavenworth Rd, reporting for the Shelton Farmers Market.

Mr. Beardsley brought a gallon of apple cider for the Commissioners. Thank you! Mr. Beardsley reported that the Farmers Market building is now being utilized by Parks & Rec for their snow removal vehicles.

He commented that the Farmers Market group is considering a third market. It will depend on the new apartments that are now being built. Maybe by March we will have a better idea.

They lost one vendor, the lettuce grower, but Mr. Beardsley thinks his daughter will fill that spot.

The Shelton Farmers Market is on Facebook. The contract with the City is valid through this year and we are anticipating a good year.

D. Trails Committee Report-Bill Dyer

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that Orange Fence has installed all of the collapsible bollards. Terry Gallagher bought locks for all of them.

Agent Gallagher mentioned that the Mayor is considering a collapsible bollard down at the river walk area. They will be looking into it.

Vice-Chairman Dyer said that we are having problems with fence rails rotting, particularly on bridge at Silent Waters dam. We are going to be working on replacing them as needed. We talked about pressure treated wood and black locust as options. Terry Gallagher said that they need to get pricing on the black locust.

Commissioner Tate suggested stock-piling a large quantity to take care of the growing need for replacements.

The Commissioners talked about the chainsaw safety seminar that will be hosted by Stihl at their Shelton facility. Commissioner Dutkanicz has been in contact with the person who will be doing the training and it will most likely be in the spring and would be held about 5PM. They will bring the materials needed for the training session. They want about 30-40 people to attend. They will put a notice out to see if members of the public wish to attend as well as the Trails members/volunteers, Conservation & Land Trust. More details to follow.

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that the Trails Committee's major goal in 2013 is the Paugusset trail, from Indian Well to at least Buddington Rd, if not Bridgeport Ave.

There will be a full-moon hike on Saturday, January 26th @ 6 PM at the Turkey Trot trail. We are meeting at the power lines where they cross at Route 108. On February 24th we will be doing a hike called the marshmallow hike @ 1 PM at Nicholdale.

For National Trails Day in June we decided to do the hike on the Paugusset trail, from Indian Well to Shelton Lakes, and back.

Commissioner McCreery MOVED to approve the reimbursement for \$86.72 for Jim Taradine for the repairs to a chainsaw. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Commissioner McCreery MOVED to approve the reimbursement to Terry Gallagher for \$212.49 for a chainsaw safety CD, leaf rakes, locks for the bollards & safety gear. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Terry Gallagher reported that the trails members worked on the trails safety draft and should be submitted at the next month's meeting. He also mentioned that there is a Boy Scout who wants to do an Eagle Scout project on the Paugusset trail at the John Dominick area. He is proposing a low boardwalk. The Scout will write it up, present it to Trails and Conservation and to Inland Wetlands for approval.

The Commissioners and Terry Gallagher discussed the construction of the bridge at Hope Lake from the last Eagle Scout project. Vice-Chairman Dyer encouraged the Commissioners to go out and view the project. It was an expensive project and took over 800 hours (total for all volunteers). Some feel that there should be some additional work to the bridge so that is why Vice-Chairman Dyer is suggesting the Commissioners go out to see for themselves. The Trails Committee members tabled the item until the next meeting.

E. Open Space Trust Account Status

No changes

F. Budget – 2013/2014 FY

Commissioner Tate suggested the Commissioners email each other throughout the month on their budget suggestions. He did comment that he'd like funds allocated for tree/landscape replacements.

There was discussion about replacement of the guide rails at various locations. It was noted that it shouldn't come from Conservation's budget.

Detailed discussion on the budget is tabled until the next meeting.

G. Review of PZC or IWC Applications for Subdivisions and/or Developments

1. Old Applications/Monitor/Follow-up

- i. PZC#12-17, 550 River Road "Blue Heron" (also known as Rivers Edge) – Presentation by Country Club of Connecticut LLC for 36-unit condominium proposal

Item tabled.

- ii. UI application to CT Siting Council to build an electric substation and related facilities on a 6-acre parcel at #14 Old Stratford Rd adjacent to the Far Mill River

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that there will be a public hearing January 17th. Commissioner Tate asked if there was comment back from Conservation's letter. Agent Gallagher stated that the letter was received.

There was discussion about the concerns of what the site will look like from the river and the location of the fence. There is a fence there now but we would like the fence moved to give greater public access for fishing and river cleanup efforts.

2. New Applications

- i. PZC# 12-21, Zone change for proposed 262-unit apartment complex at 740 Bridgeport Ave (Map 19, Lot 56). PZC public hearing scheduled for 1/23/13.

The Commissioners reviewed the drawings for the proposed apartments. It was noted that there will be 9 buildings. They also mentioned that since they require a zoning change this isn't the original plan for the Bridgeport Ave area. They did spend time discussing planning efforts for residential areas.

Since there is no open space abutting the property the Conservation's interest is, as an advisory Commission, to comment that the area stay zoned as in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Tape 1, Side B

Commissioner McCreery MOVED to send a letter of comment on the proposed residential development regarding the appropriateness of changing the zoning at 740 Bridgeport Ave. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

H. Communications (sent or received)

- Letter regarding a tree that fell over
- Various letters from Agent Gallagher to homeowners

Commissioner Welsh talked about Aquarion's efforts to utilize the wood from all the blow-downs from super-storm Sandy. He will get more information on the logging efforts to the Commission. There are some areas along some of the trails that had quite a bit of blow-downs where we could harvest the wood. Discussion of forest management.

I. Quality of Life – Executive Session (land acquisition and security issues)

Commissioner McCreery MOVED to go into Executive Session to discussion possible land acquisitions to expand the open space and security issues @ 8: 18 P.M. SECONDED by Commissioner Dutkanicz. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

At 8:43 P.M. Commissioner McCreery MOVED to return to Regular Session. SECONDED by Commissioner Goodman. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that no motions were made in Executive Session.

J. Comments By Members

Agent Gallagher handed out brochures she created from the information she received from the Deer Alliance group regarding deer and the issues.

K. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, February 6, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Conservation Commission

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