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Call to Order

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

The Commission currently has 6 active members.

Also Present: Teresa Gallagher, Conservation Agent
  Marianne Chaya, Clerk
Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Harbinson called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:06 p.m. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2007

Commissioner Lauriat MOVED to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2007 regular meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Dyer. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

Public Portion
Mike Kellogg of the Housatonic Council Boy Scouts.
I see from your minutes from the May meeting where you discussed our use of the Wiacek property. What are your expectations of our use of that property? I don’t understand from your standpoint what you might expect the property to look like when we’re done. Is there somebody I could speak to outside of here regarding this?
Agent Teresa Gallagher said that she considered that there was no interest in it anymore since I hadn’t heard anything.
Mr. Kellogg stated that he was given Terry Jones’ name.
Chairman Harbinson said that he used to be the Chairman of this commission.
Mr. Kellogg said that must be why he didn’t get a return call. We are still interested in using it. Can we use the Meadow St. access?
Chairman Harbinson said that rather than spending time tonight discussing it he encouraged Mr. Kellogg to contact Teresa during the week since she is our part-time conservation agent and that she had knowledge of the property and it’s capabilities.
Mr. Kellogg stated that we are looking at maybe 150 vehicles for a weekend.
Commissioner Tate suggested that Mr. Kellogg to write what you felt the impacts would be to the property and it would get forwarded to the Mayor’s office. As far as us being able to mow anything or do anything besides just understand what the end use of the property would be when you leave, which should be in our opinion the way you got it.
Mr. Kellogg said that if I put 400-500 people in there for the weekend, you aren’t mowing it the next week to hay it.
Commissioner Tate said that is exactly what you need to write down, and then we’re good to go.
Agent Gallagher said that should be expedited if there is work to be done to access that site. It’s not all ready to go right now.
Vice-Chairman Dyer said that he felt it could be accessed from Constitution Blvd.
Mr. Kellogg asked if there is a driveway off Meadow St.?
Agent Gallagher said no, it has to come off Constitution and we would have to walk the site. She asked Mr. Kellogg to call her.

Chairman Harbinson said that when they made their presentation regarding the purchase of the property they showed the mixed use with one of them being this type of use as a scout Jamboree.

**Review of P&Z Applications for Subdivisions and/or Development**

*Lava Real Estate, PZC#06-27 (Commerce Drive and Bridgeport Ave.)*

Commissioner Harbinson reported that at the February 8th Inland Wetlands meeting the basic development plan was approved and stated that he was not sure the detail development plan was approved. Commissioner Lauriat stated that he attended the meeting, representing the Shelton Land Trust. The Land Trust sent a letter to the IWC. He felt that the Chairman did a first rate job of bamboozling the entire room with a couple of exceptions. It appeared that a couple of Commissioners were just shaking their heads as if to say, don't hit me again, and the rest of them just caved. Commissioner Welch said that everyone should read the minutes if they represented what really went on. He said there’s something wrong. Commissioner Lauriat said that he agrees and did state that they did read the letter into the record. He said he came away from the meeting bitter.

*Shelton River Front Development, PZC#06-48 – Upper Canal Street*

Chairman Harbinson reported that at the P&Z February 13th meeting the initial development plans were approved. They really did listen to our comments regarding the canal locks and the Riverwalk. There will be more opportunity to give input as they go through all the phases of the project. I think it was worthwhile for all the effort we put into it.

**Any Pending**

*Beacon Point – Murphy’s Boat Yard*

Commissioner Tate brought this one up due to the conflict with the use of this property in regards to the residential component.

Chairman Harbinson said that they are looking to do a PDD zone change in the marina area with 24 condos, 300 boat slips, a freestanding restaurant, a clubhouse and parking. The residential component is inconsistent with our future land use plans. They are requesting to amend our Plan of Conservation and Development.

Commissioner Lauriat said that when he sat in the work session on this he suggested someone should come up with a proposal for a ferryboat service to be able to get across to the golf course on the Milford side.
Commissioner McCreery said that they have been given permission from the DEP and Army Corps of Engineers for the boat slips. Chairman Harbinson added that they are changing the navigable channel of the river and explained how it would work. Commissioner Lauriat said that they are changing the thalweg of the river – it is the center of the navigable portion of the river. It was asked isn’t the navigable channel actually defined by the character of the river?

Commissioner McCreery asked what is in the PoCD that say’s you can’t do this? Commissioner Tate said that it is zoned for commercial, which does not include a residential component.

Commissioner McCreery asked if the new plan states that you should refrain from putting residential in a commercial area because you are losing your tax base? (Yes) Doesn’t the new plan also say that you should not use a PDD, if it were residential, to cram in more dense developments in a residential zone? (Yes). Great, so let’s just take the plan you worked on for the last 3 years ago and throw it out the window.

Commissioner Tate said no, you just have to balance what makes sense. If the businesses tax dollars offset the residential component, maybe that is the way to go. You just have to pay attention to the numbers.

Commissioner McCreery said if you age-restrict it that would work and Commissioner Tate said that he thought that was where the discussions were going.

Chairman Harbinson brought up the discussion regarding the dumping of the dredged materials in the waters off the Sunnyside marina. The owners were very upset about it, came to City Hall and talked with the Mayor who said he talked with the DEP Commissioner and it is being re-evaluated. He gave me a couple of contact names and the DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Commissioner Lauriat commented that if you look at the passage for the tugboat to take that barge, it is much easier to take it out to sea or out to the sound, than to come up here to dump it.

Chairman Harbinson said it was described to him that there was a hole or hollow in the river.

Commissioner Lauriat noted that they have been dredging out here in the river for years and caused the channels and currents to scour the bottom to make that divot in the river. It became a wonderful fishing hole. Some years ago the record size bass was caught just upriver of the dam.

Commissioner Tate said to keep in mind that there is a process to get this act done; it isn’t done over night. The application was processed probably 4 years ago. There had to be a justification or site assessment of why would you put it there.

Commissioner McCreery commented that his client did not know about the dumping in front of their property until the tugboat owner came and knocked on their door and said we’ll be bring the barges up next week. Something is wrong with that process.
Commissioner Tate commented that somebody made the evaluation and recommendation of potential places where it should be dumped. DEP then takes that information and evaluates the sites that were listed on the application. The less maybe harmful in the evaluation process DEP would follow at the time and make the determination.

Commissioner McCreery commented that Commissioner Tate is giving DEP more credit than it deserves.

Commissioner Tate said that the documentation should be available for us to look at and I think we should look at it first and then decide where the weaknesses are.

It was suggested to write a letter to the DEP requesting copies of their documentation.

Commissioner Welch added that he felt one of the biggest problems is the whole method of thought. Taking contaminated material from one area and dump it into a site where there is contamination – “but this is less contaminated” – that justifies it?

Commissioner McCreery stated that we shouldn’t assume it is contaminated. Vice-Chairman Dyer said it might just be silt.

Commissioner Tate stated that if we can get that information it might be very helpful for us if we have any input on to this proposal.

Commissioner McCreery stated that he believes Coswell Cove has groundwater contamination similar to what they found down by the power plant. It may be something like TCB’s or multi-faceted hydrocarbons.

It was questioned and speculated on why they are taking it from one area and dumped here is that they have to put it somewhere.

Commissioner Tate said that he would ask, are these two developments related? It doesn’t make sense that you would put it in a more dense use area.

Commissioner Lauriat commented that he read that one of the alternatives that they are talking about now is the lagoon behind the dump.

Agent Gallagher said that she figures the thought process is that if you bring it out to the middle of the sound the sediments are cleaner than these minor little contaminated sediments but if they stick it out in Shelton then well that’s kind of dirty anyways.

Commissioner McCreery added that the web site Agent Gallagher sent to the Commissioners showed the entire Housatonic River corridor as compromised.

Agent Gallagher stated that it is but with the type of contamination of PCB’s that you have in the Housatonic there is no way to just go in and clean it. It is too vast. We will have to wait a period of time, maybe decades or hundreds of years for it to naturally get flushed down into the sound and to the ocean or to get buried. When you dig it up further downstream and bring it back upstream it again you are doing the opposite of what the natural process will eventually do on their own.

The Commissioners directed Agent Gallagher to contact DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers.
Soundview Ave/Red Fern Subdivision, 279 Soundview Ave

This is the application of the subdivision where the applicant’s engineer made a presentation at our February meeting. They reviewed the plans to see if they made changes based on the recommendations made last month.

Chairman Harbinson reported that this is now known as P&Z application #07-08 made by Huntington Development Group and there is no subdivision name noted. It is in an R-1 zone and they are looking to develop 11 lots on 14 acres. We had asked for a connection on the open space area and some changes to the walls, making them as a boundary to the open space. It doesn’t appear that they made any changes.

Commissioner Tate suggested going back to the minutes from the February meeting and convey those to P&Z.

Commissioner McCreery stated that they agreed to move the stone walls to mark the boundary to the open space and wetlands and to make the connection to the open space. Chairman Harbinson added that the referral notice from P&Z does have a comment. It states, please note that the applicant has indicated that they will provide a temporary pedestrian easement along the rear of lots 10 and 11, if recommended. I am not sure what a temporary pedestrian easement would be.

Commissioner McCreery MOVED to prepare a letter to the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding Huntington Development Group, LLC, application #07-08. The developer’s engineer made a presentation at the Conservation Commission’s February meeting of the proposed subdivision application and it was the recommendation of the Commission, and we believed the applicant’s engineer indicated it would be acceptable to undertake the following modifications: 1) provide a continuation of the proposed open space to the rear of lots 10 and 11 for access to Soundview Avenue and the contiguous open space across the street on Soundview, 2) to relocate some of the stone walls that would otherwise be destroyed as a demarcation line of the open space being dedicated to the City of Shelton, 3) the remaining stone walls were to be used in part to delineate and create a line of demarcation of the wetlands area with the setback as shown on lots 5, 6 & 7. 4) stone walls will also be used to delineate the pedestrian easement that would go out towards Soundview Ave. The Conservation Commission does not agree that the pedestrian easement should be temporary – it should be permanent pedestrian easement. The open space dedication on this parcel is more appropriate than a fee in lieu of due to it’s proximity to open space acquired from the parcel known as the Wiacek Farm and open space acquired by the Summerfield Gardens community. This is to continue our goal of expanding the greenway connecting to the open space on the other side of Soundview Ave. near Red Fern, which is consistent with our greenway plan. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate.
A voice vote was taken, all were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Chairman Harbinson stated that Agent Gallagher received a letter from the Board of Aldermen regarding a piece of open space on Huntington St. that the adjacent property owner would like to see the easement swapped. They are asking us to review it. We will put it on our April agenda for review.

**Tribute Walk**

Commissioner Tate recused himself from the discussion and left the room.

Chairman Harbinson reported that we received a request from SEDC to reimburse them for design fees for the Tribute Walk, which is down by the Farmer’s Market, for $5000. If you recall we did this once before, back in September 2004 where we first started discussing it. In April 2005 we discussed it more in depth but Jim Ryan (SEDC) was not able to attend our meeting. In May 2005 Mr. Ryan attended our meeting and explained what they were trying to accomplish and we agreed to contribute $5000 towards the design of the Tribute Walk. This walk would go along the Riverwalk along Canal Street, north of the Veterans Memorial green space. Because it was so close to the end of our fiscal year Harriet Wilber had encumbered the funds ($5K) for the engineering plan for the fiscal year 04-05 to the 05-06 year. Then we never heard anything and I did not encumber it again from the 05-06 year to the 06-07. In talking with Sharon Scanlon from Finance she said they were not encumbered. We would have to use funds from this year’s budget, which we do have. It would either come from Land Use or Professional Services.

**Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to reimburse SEDC $5000 for the design of the Tribute Walk along Canal Street. SECONDED by Commissioner McCreery.**

Discussion:
Commissioner Lauriat commented that somewhere along the line SEDC should be reminded that our concept of the Riverwalk is along the river. Chairman Harbinson said that he thinks they are hearing that loud and clear because the downtown subcommittee has said the same thing, Parks & Rec have said that, and we’ve said that.

Chairman Harbinson said he would email the account number to the clerk.

A voice vote was taken, all were in favor (Commissioner Tate recused); MOTION PASSED.

Commissioner Tate returned to the meeting.
Clear-cutting of parcels

Commissioner McCreery reported that he is still working on analyzing all the sections that need to be changed. There were multiple attacks in the newspaper, one being from a local attorney. I don’t know if there was politics involved but seemed to be addressed at what Randy York proposed, which is not on the table. We already agreed to go in a different direction. I thought it was unfortunate because it made it look like all the things that were being alleged was what we were doing, such as proposing a tree czar, which has never been suggested by this Commission.

Commissioner Lauriat reported that he contacted a person in Easton to see what they are doing. Ed, I strongly recommend you talk Rick McLaughlin and set aside a respectable amount of time. Just to give you a clue as to how frustrated that man is; they had a 24” Maple that some wild-eyed developer whacked down without asking anyone and they went after him. They went after him through the courts. He said that was the biggest mistake, to go after him through the courts. The first thing you have to have is to have it certified as being destroyed by a State certified arborist. You also have to have a State certified arborist who is qualified to appraise such a tree. Their certified arborist died after 7 years after doing it and no one has collected a dime. All they wanted was 3-5” trees. Mr. McLaughlin recommends you call the State tree warden – Bob Richard. If you miss him you can contact the Urban Forester – Chris Donnelly. The program director for the Forestry Practices Act, Commercial Procedures Program is Douglas Emerthal. They will clue you in for all things statewide. Then he suggested talking to New Canaan because they are one of the few cities that had a tree ordinance. I talked with Steven Kleppen of their P&Z. He said yes, we have one, and tried to enforce it and found out that it is not allowed by state ordinance. They said don’t bother. Then I called a friend in Newtown and they have a tree ordinance but only for the historical district. They did what the State said they had to. They got an arborist and had a survey done where they counted every tree in the district. You have to also have the certified arborist, who is authorized to appraise, attach a value to each tree.

Tape 1, Side B

Commissioner McCreery stated that he feels the best way around this is, as part of the P&Z process, when you are submitting a site plan you have to show all the trees that have a diameter greater than 15”. We want you to do the survey at your expense and show us what you plan to remove. That is a better approach. Vice-Chairman Dyer commented that they would just remove them before they submit a site plan.

Commissioner McCreery suggested that you say you can’t do significant site alteration without a permit showing us what you are going to do.

Commissioner Lauriat said that everything he heard is what Commissioner McCreery just said. But the fellow from Easton said, and he watched what happened down here on the river, that you better hope that the developer doesn’t
say, take me to court, because you lost, already you lost, because you didn’t have that whole list of nonsense done.

Vice-Chairman Dyer said he talked with Trumbull. They said that they have been thinking about it for 5 years and don’t have it, and oh, by the way, our Conservation Commission was so ineffective that at the last charter they disbanded the Commission.

Commissioner Tate commented that there are different levels of certified arborists. There is one that Teresa could get easily just with her course of study and applying for it. Then there is a municipal designation, a utility designation and a master designation. The master designation is 8 years and you have to have all sorts of knowledge of all different facets. It is self-policing in a way so the certification is within it’s own body, which is typical of these types of organizations and it is really promoting their business entity of good arbor culture and practices. When you get into court they are looking for experts and what justifies and expert from a non-expert and that would be one element. The reason I bring it up so that it should be encouraged that our tree warden should have some certification, at least a municipal designation, or at least have somebody available to do that. For that reason alone if they made a decision and it needed to be defended. It is mainly for the street trees.

Commissioner Tate reported that he talked with the Fairfield tree warden, Ken Blacko, who is municipal certified. He handles mostly the street trees and his sole role in keeping Fairfield the dogwood capital of lower Fairfield county. They have invested a lot of money in planting contracts and he oversees them. He has great knowledge of the planting and survival of street trees. In their 10-year plan of update they dealt mainly with bulk fencing and architectural problems with the bulldozing the smaller houses and then building the mansions along with putting duplexes in the areas zoned for single-family homes. Their end result was they said that part of their preservation of “character resources” by establishing policies that encourage preservation and enhancement of historic stonewalls and guide the construction of new stonewalls. The plan also recommends that Fairfield should also adopt regulations to encourage the preservation and enhancement of trees, in excess of 12”. They also suggest adopting a tree ordinance to help preserve and enhance the trees on public property.

Commissioner Lauriat said that what Newtown is really just talking about street trees and Commissioner Tate suggested that is what we should focus on. The only utility designated arborist in this area lives in Shelton and works for the UI. Commissioner Tate added that Fairfield’s Inland Wetlands Conservation Commission is dictated by stream corridor setbacks. That is how they dictate their buffer areas. They have almost autonomous jurisdiction over almost anything that happens, such as tree clearing. Anything that changes the character of the property within those buffer areas. If you have wetlands on your property, or have a buffer of those wetlands on your property, you have to get a review by their I/W Commission or their staff and they decide what the impact is.
Chairman Harbinson reported that there was a letter to the editor from Steve Bellis, who also wrote a letter to John Anglace that we were copied on regarding our initiation on this concept.

**Communications**

- CT Audubon Society 2007 – CT State of the Birds
- CT Agriculture Natural Resource Journal – University of CT
- Nature Conservancy
- The Jones’ Family Christmas letter
- 8-24 Referral from P&Z regarding the Dikofsky piece that they donated to the City. They reported unanimously in favor and put in the stipulation that said property would be credited as open space if the property is subdivided.
- March 31, 2007 Northeast Utilities is having their 24th annual conference regarding CT land conservation council. It has a number of topics such as surveys, ATV encroachments. Teresa Gallagher would like to attend and it is a $40 fee.

*Commissioner Welch MOVED to authorize payment for the $40 fee for Agent Teresa Gallagher to attend the Northeast Utilities annual conference on March 31, 2007. The fee is to be paid from our budget item for meetings. SECONDED by Commissioner Lauriat. A voice vote was taken, all were in favor; MOTION PASSED.*

- Email correspondence from Oxford’s Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands/Land Trust regarding ATV’s. There is a bill at the state level regarding ATV regulations.
- Email from Randy York, which was forwarded to all Commissioners regarding bills. It was discussed how they would go about making commentary on legislative bills before the state.

**New Conservation Commission Member**

Chairman Harbinson said he did speak with the Mayor and he said he is going to schedule interviews with potential members and has several others express interest in the Commission as well. I will speak with him soon to expedite this.

**Conservation Agent Report**

Agent Teresa Gallagher reported as follows:

**Open Space Trust Account**

The balance as of 2/28/2006 was $135,501.16. Expenditures include $108,001 for the UI property and over $30,000 for the Rec Path bridge and railing. The latter should not have been applied to the Trust Account and I will be talking to Accounting about that. Additions include the $50,000 City contribution and
$25,000 fee-in-lieu-of from Tice Brothers for 115 Booth Hill Road. The Commissioners discussed the lack of reporting/tracking capability from the Finance Dept. regarding this account. Chairman Harbinson said he had made his own spreadsheet to track the account.

**Lane Street – Pinning of property along Rec Path**
Lewis Associates surveyed the Scenic Lane Estates property along 129 and 121 Lane Street and also Serene Drive. The survey pins and caps were installed flush with the ground rather than 12 inches high as specified. The newly surveyed property lines reveal plenty of encroachment by Lane Street and Serene Drive residents. The latter encroachments probably pre-date our acquisition of the property.

**Shelton Life Annual Report**
It was updated and submitted to SEDC with photos, which includes updated figures for open space and farmland preservation.

**Filing/Office**
I now have a large stack of cardboard boxes of materials to be filed, some from Harriet, some from my basement. I located an appropriate filing cabinet in storage at the old Intermediate School and have put in a request to have that delivered. To make room for the cabinet and for greater efficiency, my co-workers and I rearranged room 102 and shifted the Conservation area so that I have more room now. I have also put in a request for a shelf from Staples.

**Rec Path Consolidated Grant**
The Nagy Bros invoice has been received for their work on the abutments and bridge totaling $25,659.00, and approved by the City Engineer, and the final P&C Fence invoice is pending approval from the Trails Committee. There is an extra $500 reserved for Nagy to complete the bridge installation (bolts and such). As soon as those checks are cut I will submit the expenditures to DEP for reimbursement. The total Consolidated Grant amount was for $75,421, of which $63,905.00 has been spent (that includes both invoices from P&C), leaving a grant balance of $11,016.00.

**Silent Waters dam history**
We are trying to determine the origin of the concrete blocks and other materials at the foot of the dam because the Rec Path will be routed through the area. I looked through the files at Plumb Library and found a document showing the dates when the reservoirs were completed. The Shelton Historical Society has no information. I have a name of someone from Aquarion who may have some information.
Monroe correspondence
I met with John Schwartz; trail manager for the Paugusset in Monroe to discuss ATVs and general conservation issues. I may be meeting with members of the Monroe Conservation Commission to trade information. They have a part-time park ranger who works for the Police Department, but no staff person such as myself.

Open Space Plan Update
An initial rough draft has been completed. I will be editing and adding information to create a final rough draft for review. Regis has made progress on the Open Space map and calculated the greenway areas for me:

- Housatonic 1865 acres
- Means Brook 2329
- Shelton Lakes 1268
- Far Mill 1169
- Trap Falls 767
- Long Hill 344
- Ivy Brook 78

Total Public Open Space (including parks such as Riverview, ball fields not at a school, and the Huntington Green) 1873 acres.

Farmland preserved via Purchase of Development Rights: 410 acres (the Farmland Preservation Plan has a goal of 1500 acres).

Community Resource Inventory
Under the Open Space Plan, various elements are treated somewhat independently. There are separate sections on Scenic Resources, Historic Resources, Agricultural Resources, and Natural Resources (including water quality). Most of these topics call for an assessment or inventory of our existing resources. One option is to create a Community Resources Inventory (CRI), such as that shown on the new DEP-NEMO website [http://nemo.uconn.edu/tools/cri](http://nemo.uconn.edu/tools/cri). These resources, once determined, would then be compiled as separate layers onto our GIS open space map by Regis. I recommend creating a community to work on this, which will give members from the public an opportunity to become involved and a reservoir from which to draw new Conservation members when needed.

The Commission discussed the possibility of creating a Community Resource Inventory committee and they would see if people would want to step forward and join. If enough people are interested it will become an ad-hoc committee.

Tape 2, Side A
Trails Committee Report
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported as follows:

Phase I
The feedback from the powers that be is that they will consider doing Phase I as a LOCIP project. This is to grade and gravel to the point of a firm bed. We want to go ahead and get estimates and an RFP to go from Pine Lake to Meadow Street and from the end of where it's paved straight through to Constitution and then from Constitution all the way to the bridge to the 108 intersection (everything in Phase 1 except where we already have it paved). My plan is to go out with someone that can give us an estimate to grade it, remove some rocks, maybe some trees have to come down, put the filter fabric down, and put 6” of gravel, 8-10’ wide. It is all mapped and I have someone to give us a price. Then I can come back to the Commission.

Commissioner Tate asked if making the trail workable would have to wait until after we have to go through the budget process?

Vice-Chairman Dyer said that he would try and get the bridge done independent of the existing contract.

The Commission members discussed the LOCIP process.

Commissioner Tate and Vice-Chairman Dyer discussed the issue Commissioner Tate had regarding the concern that the process could quickly stop and there are ways to accelerate it and he was trying to get together with someone to move the process along. The suggestion was to maybe break it down into smaller projects instead of trying to focus on one large project.

Chairman Harbinson added that the Mayor had said that he wanted to get that section from Pine Lake to Meadow St. done so we should take that section, put it out for proposal, and do it. If we spend $50,000 and LOCIP reimburses us then we have that $50,000 to spend again.

Commissioner Tate stated that he and Chairman Harbinson knows that it is a good chance that if we apply for the funds the City would back us up.

Recreation Trails Grant Application
We submitted the grant application and a copy was emailed to the Commissioners. By December we have to submit a formal application. We thought it would be appropriate to get a vote of support from this Commission plus a letter from the Mayor.

This application is to similarly do what we are talking about for Phase I for the first part of Phase II, which will run from the other side of 108 up to Oak Valley Rd.
Commissioner Tate asked if there would be a wetland permit needed? Vice-Chairman Dyer said that most likely it would be needed. There was discussion of getting prepared to present this to the IWC for a permit.

**Commissioner Tate MOVED to write a letter of support for the grant application (DEP 2007 Recreational Trails Grant) as outlined by the Trails Committee. SECONDED by Commissioner Lauriat. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.**

**Recreation Path Design for Phase 2 & 3**
We are still deciding if we really need it or not.

**Well Spring Estates**
The property has been deeded to the City but Chairman Harbinson reported that the last time he was down there No Trespassing signs were on the open space. Vice-Chairman Dyer said that there still are a lot of building materials that are on part of the open space. Stone walls still need to be rebuilt. Chairman Harbinson suggested holding off releasing the bond until all items are complete.

**Blue Dot Trail – Shelton Lakes**
Our goal is to connect from Indian Wells to Shelton Lakes.

**Funding for Rec Path**
We went to the budget meeting and it is approved.

**Lane Street Survey**
The survey has been done. We are proposing to put in a two-rail, split-rail fence in that area. I have negotiated with the fence contractor and he has agreed to do the 200’ of fence for an extra $400.

**Commissioner McCreery MOVED to approve the expenditure of $400 for the installation of 200’ of a two-rail, split-rail fence along the Lane Street open space recreation path. SECONDED by Commissioner Lauriat. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.**

The Commissioners discussed the orientation of the fence.

**Quality of Life – Executive Session**
Commissioner McCreery MOVED to go into Executive Session at 9:18 P.M. to discuss possible land acquisitions. SECONDED by Vice Chairman Dyer. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

Commissioner Lauriat MOVED to come out of Executive Session at 9:40 P.M. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

Comments By Members

Commissioner Lauriat shared his story about a bobcat he saw in his yard plus a lady who owns a horse farm said she had a mountain lion on her property who spooked three of her horses, they went in the pond and drowned. He also told us about the elephant who is buried near Wells Farm off of Bridgeport Ave. Years ago Barnum and Bailey used to bring their stuff up here to the valley. One day on their trip an elephant died and was buried there. Vice-Chairman Dyer said that he and Chairman Harbinson, after their budget meeting went to Amici’s. As they were leaving they noticed a lot of police activity up and down Howe Ave. Bill and Tom spotted the two guys the police were after and noticed the police were not seeing them. They called the police dispatcher and gave them the location of the two guys. The police then observed them and an arrest was made. Commissioner Lauriat said that around his property he noticed kids out in the field and they had lit a fire. He called the police and said that they used the bullhorn to tell the kids to leave. They never went in to find them and in a short time left. Agent Gallagher passed out the photos that were taken of the Commissioners and handed out an article titled White-Tailed Deer Over-Browsing Affects Bird Populations.

Adjournment

Commissioner Lauriat MOVED to adjourn. SECONDED by Commissioner Welsh. All were in favor, MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Conservation Commission