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Call to Order
Present: Tom Harbinson, Chairman
Bill Dyer, Vice-Chairman
Jim Tate, Commissioner
Ed McCreery, Commissioner
Jim Goodman, Commissioner
Joe Welsh, Commissioner
Sheryl Dutkanicz, Commissioner

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

A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Harbinson called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:00p.m. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
B. Approval of Minutes
Commissioner Dutkanicz MOVED to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2011 Regular meeting and from the April 13, 2011 Special meeting. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

C. Public Portion (items not on agenda)
none

D. Shelton Lakes Recreation Path, upgrade to handicapped accessible standards. Status.
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that the contractors have finished 2a, which goes from Route 108/Constitution Blvd. to Oak Valley Rd. They have finished from the top of Lane St meadow up to Lane St extension. Commissioner Tate and I have walked most of the area. They have submitted an invoice for $29,641.20. The Trails Committee has recommended payment based on their evaluation and it meets the standards of what was called for in the contract. Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to approve payment to Pruzinsky & Sons in the amount of $29,641.20 for work completed on the Rec Path, phase 3c. SECONDED by Commissioner McCreery. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Vice-Chairman Dyer stated that they met with the neighbors at the corner of Wesley Drive and the Rec Path and their sprinkler system will not be impacted and we will work out a way to go around their property. They have been informed of the details and are willing to work with us. Commissioner Goodman reported that he noticed a lot of people using the new Rec Path.

Vice-Chairman Dyer talked about getting a quote for additional work (460’) at the top of where they did the Lane St section out to Wesley Drive. We’d like to have a layer of filter fabric and processed (8’ wide) to have a continuous identical trail. There was discussion of funding this endeavor. The purchase order has been signed and awarded for the 330’ installation of fencing. There was discussion of where the fencing needs to be installed now. They discussed the process of the funding through LOCIP.

There was discussion of another route and getting a quote for it, plus how to get funding.

Vice-Chairman Dyer mentioned the gate at Oak Valley Rd. at the Rec Path needs to be moved because you can’t get by it if you had a baby carriage. Commissioner Tate suggested starting the dialog now to get it moved. Commissioner Tate said that we still have 4 granite posts (2 logo, 2 plain). We need to know where to install them. The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the pictures of the granite posts installed at various locations.
Terry Gallagher (Trails Committee) stated that we had 3 work parties this month just moving wood chips/mulch on the Rec Path starting at the dog park. Parks & Rec provided the mulch from the city yard. They did all this work in preparation of Trails Day.

Agent Gallagher talked about the volunteers from the high school. They had a requirement that students need 10 hours of volunteer community service in order to advance to the next grade. For the last 3 weeks everybody was calling and asking for work to do because it had to be done by May 1. The weather didn’t really cooperate and we ended up with 5 showing up.

Commissioner McCreery suggested using our Conservation sandwich board sign at the entrance of the new Rec Path area.

Chairman Harbinson talked about the granite posts having an identifying uniform look all along the Rec Path.

Commissioner Dutkanicz mentioned that the Trails Committee talked about putting a kiosk close to the trail.

Agent Gallagher said the dog park committee talked about putting up their own kiosk.

**E. Trails Committee Report**

Most items discussed on the above agenda item.

There is a dog walk on Sunday, May 15th at 2pm.

There will be a work party on May 14th to get ready for National Trails Day (June 4th). There will be a bridge-to-bridge hike starting at 10:30 am from Pine Lake to Huntington Center.

Vice-Chairman Dyer presented an expense reimbursement request from Richard Skudlarek for a hedge trim attachment. The total to be reimbursed is $95.36.

_Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to approve reimbursement in the amount of $95.36 to Richard Skudlarek for purchase of a hedge trim attachment. SECONDED by Commissioner Dutkanicz. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED._

_Commissioner Goodman MOVED to approve reimbursement in the amount of $65.00 each to James Tyler Tate and Andrew Boretsky for installation of the granite bollards. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor; with Commissioner Tate abstaining, MOTION PASSED._

**F. Proposed State Recreational Liability bills - Status**

Chairman Harbinson reported that this bill is moving through the legislature. Commissioner McCreery emailed information to the Commissioners today.
G. Dog Park and Planning for Corner at Nells Rock Road & Shelton Ave. – Status update
Covered on earlier discussion

H. Community Garden
Agent Gallagher said that the Longview Ave. garden is going well. Dean Cawthra and someone from Iroquois went out there and did an exploratory dig to locate where the pipeline was. The Soundview Ave garden is not open yet. We are waiting for the ground to dry out so that the equipment can go in there and remove all the rocks.

I. Brook Naming-Shelton Lakes Greenway/Wesley Drive
Chairman Harbinson reported that we sent a letter to Inland Wetlands Commission and they endorsed naming Basil brook per our request (named after Basil Difkovsky). The next step will be through the BOA.

J. Open Space Trust Account
No change

K. Budget Status
Chairman Harbinson commented that there are a couple of items that are low. We need to request transfers from the Board of A&T.

Tape 1, Side B

Part-time employees are short. This is primarily due to hours put in for Clean Sweep and litter. $3600 can be transferred from Other Outside Services. The clerical line item is short, mainly due to the fact that Marianne is now doing the minutes for the Trails Committee. $250 can come from Program Development. This leaves our budget with about $8000 unspent.

Chairman Harbinson directed Agent Gallagher to look into the term limits for the Commissioners.

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

   1. Old Applications/Monitor/ Follow-up
None
2. New Applications (Applications received between agenda creation and our Regular Meeting may be amended to this Agenda at start of regular meetings by a vote from the Commission.)

None

M. Executive Session-Quality of Life

Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED at 8pm to go into Executive Session to discuss security and quality of life parcels. SECONDED by Commissioner Welsh. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Commissioner Welsh MOVED to come out of Executive Session and return to regular session at 8:35pm. SECONDED by Commissioner Dutkanicz. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Commissioner McCreery MOVED to obtain 3 quotes for appraisals of a property area as discussed in Executive Session. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Chairman Harbinson said that we will update the Mayor and talk to him about direction regarding the potential of that property’s acquisitions and aspects of that.

Vice-Chairman brought up a quote he received for additional work on the Rec Path. After some discussion the members decided to go back into Executive Session to discuss the details.

Commissioner Tate MOVED at 8:40 pm to go into Executive Session to discuss details of a quote for the Rec Path. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Chairman Harbinson MOVED to come out of Executive Session and return to regular session. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Chairman Harbinson reported that no action was taken in Executive Session. The discussion was focused on different aspects of bids and scope of work. It will be reviewed by Vice-Chairman Dyer for potential future bidding.

N. Comments By Members

Agent Gallagher passed out the flyer made up for Adopt A Street. We are trying to get businesses and civic groups to adopt a street in Shelton. It is starting up next week. We mailed them out to the top 300 businesses and civic groups in Shelton. To adopt a street, you would sign a contract to keep a designated street clean, agreeing to pick up litter a minimum of 4 times a year. In exchange, they
get a street sign similar to the one in the brochure, which was taken in Ridgefield that lists their name who has adopted a street. They will also get safety traffic vests. This is also on the website, www.DontTrashShelton.org. They can also contact the program coordinator via email at adoptastreet@cityofshelton.org. The only restriction is that it can’t be a state highway road. We have 10 streets we have targeted as the ones that really need it. Vice-Chairman Dyer gave brochures to the Rotary Club.

O. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.
The next regular meeting is Wednesday, June 1, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Conservation Commission