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

Also
Present: Teresa Gallagher, Conservation Agent
         Marianne Chaya, Clerk
City of Shelton, Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Regular Meeting on Wednesday May 5, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.
Minutes should be considered a draft version until approved by CC at their next meeting.

**A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**
Chairman Harbinson called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:10 p.m. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. Approval of Minutes**
Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2010 regular meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Goodman. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

**C. Public Portion**
None

**D. Shelton Lakes Recreation Path – upgrade to handicapped accessible standards**
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that we’ve been notified that we have been awarded the DEP grant, which is part of the funding. This grant was specifically written to complete Phase 3C. Our goal is to put together a bid package to allow people to bid. Phase 3C is the first, next is Phase 2A, 3B & 3A. I put together a statement of work and have forwarded it to Commissioner Tate for his input. Then I will forward it to Terry Gallagher and to Jim Swift. I met with Jim Swift this morning to review Phase 2A and 3C regarding the 8% slope details. Jim did say he has a map of the whole area and can update it as needed. Once we get our package together we can go to purchasing to have them publish the bid. Then we can have our bidders meeting to show the potential bidders the areas. The goal would be to have this project done in the fall.

**E. Trails Committee Report – Bill Dyer**
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported as follows:

1. **Boy Scout Projects**
   We have 3 Boy Scout projects coming up. One of the Scouts was here tonight, Kenny Giangregorio. Kenny’s project is around the Eklund gardens. Nick, another scout, started working on the path around the cliff. He has the material for the J-pond bridge replacement. The third scout is the one who will move the kiosk at Birchbank if the DEP wants us to move it from their property.
2. Other 2010 Planned Trail Projects
   
   a. Storage area for tools
   We are concerned about our tools in the red barn and we will be looking into the possibility of getting some kind of alarm system.
   
   b. Trail Enhancement Efforts in 2010
   We do have some fence rails that have been broken. We are going to need to buy some rails.
   
   Chairman Harbinson MOVED to authorize the Trails Committee to purchase replacement rails along the Rec Path near Silent Waters for safety purposes. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.
   
3. Guided Hikes
   
   a. May 15, 2010
   This guided hike will have food/drink donated by Bertucci’s. The hike starts at 2PM from Abbey Wright parking area. Agent Gallagher will be giving a talk about Eklund Gardens. The DEP has a “no child left inside” program they are doing on this day at various parks. Agent Gallagher will provide some stamps for the letter boxes.
   
   b. National Trails Day
   National Trails Day is Saturday, June 5. There will be 3 events in town that we are involved in. The hike this year is the “reverse” bridge to bridge. It starts at the Community Center and go back to Pine Lake. Agent Gallagher will have a habitat hike. Lynn & Louise are going to have a hike from the new Paugusset blue dot trail from the parking lot at Indian Well up to the Turkey Trot trail and back again.
   
4. Equipment and Expenses
   
   a. Equipment
   We have found a used trailer (landscape) we’d like to purchase. It’s $800. It was brought up that you’d have registration issues and Chairman Harbinson suggested talking to Dean about it. Terry Gallagher said the thought about having this trailer is because we often need access to Parks & Rec’s equipment on the weekend. Chairman Harbinson suggested talking w/Parks & Rec before a work party to insure access to a trailer. They discussed details of how to purchase this trailer. The money would come from the balance left in a grant account.
The Commissioners and Trails Committee member Terry Gallagher spent a considerable amount of time discussing benches on the trails. The discussion was location, material and the esthetic look. Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that someone has already broken the plexi-glass at Lane Street kiosk and Agent Gallagher said the plexi-glass at Mill Street kiosk was also broken. The Harriet Wilber memorial bench at Lane St. is constantly being vandalized.

b. Expenses

Commissioner Tate MOVED to reimburse Terry Gallagher for Trails Committee equipment in the amount of $56.67. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

F. Dog Park Status

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that the dog park committee has raised about $1000. The committee is planning to meet with the BOA at the May meeting to discuss funding. Agent Gallagher mentioned the painted drum for trash that the Girl Scouts decorated for the dog park. It is currently located outside her office.

G. Community Garden

Agent Gallagher reported that the garden committee has staked the corners of a 30-plot garden off of Longview Dr. (Klapik site). Fred Monahan is going to plow it for us. If after that and the area looks like it's acceptable for this year we hope to open it at the end of this month. We don't have water or fencing yet. I got pricing for the fencing. It will be $1300 for the fencing plus $5000 for the installation.

We considered having volunteers to install the fence. The Commissioners discussed whether there is enough money in our budget to fund the fence. The Commissioners authorized Chairman Harbinson to review the budget and if available allocate the money to the community garden. Agent Gallagher also stated that next year the tentative plan is to open a 30-plot community garden at 279 Soundview Ave.
H. Environmental Review Team (ERT) report for OS 80 Wiacek/Soundview: Status
Agent Gallagher provided copies of the Kings Mark report for the Commissioners and it is online as well.

I. Open Space Trust Account: status
None available

J. Shelton Canal – status update
Agent Gallagher emailed the Commissioners the letter from McCallum to FERC. The letter is as follows:

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McALLUM ENTERPRISES I LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

SHELTON HYDRO SITE (203) 924-4949
FAX (203) 924-9994
2974 MAIN STREET, STRATFORD, CONNECTICUT 06614
TELEPHONE (203) 386-1745
FAX (203) 377-8229

April 20, 2010

John Mark
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
39 West 34th Street
New York, NY 10001

Re: Derby Dam Project—Ferc #5066—CT
Proposal to Modify the Recreation & Public Safety Plan

Dear John,

Thanks for taking the time to speak with me about your visit to the project. I understand that you’re working on your site inspection report. I would appreciate it if you would send me a copy.

I think we are both in agreement that the swift water coming from the tailrace, which is actually 34,000 gallons per second, poses a real danger to children and others who may decide to swim close to that area.

With the Birmingham development already completed on the south end of Canal Street and construction on the development on the north end to begin this summer we are feeling the heavy responsibility of the dangers posed by the open canal and swift discharge at the tailrace.

The potential for danger is evident to us—it’s not if an accident occurs, but when it will occur.

FOUNDED BY E. J. Mccullum Sr. & E. J. McAllum, Jr.
EST 1928

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CC minutes, 2010-05-05 submitted via m.weber@CityofShelton.org email to City Clerk for legal posting requirements. Tape recording of meeting available at City Clerk’s office.
Commissioner Tate asked how the change in the recreation area going to affect us? Agent Gallagher responded that we don’t know that there is going to be a change in the Rec area. It’s not clear what the letter means. Vice-Chairman Dyer asked if they are trying to get rid of the stairway down to the river? Agent Gallagher said it doesn’t specify what he’s trying to do.
Chairman Harbinson commented that what had been tried before was to refuse, because of the hazard to the public, that’s going to reduce the access. Just keeping us informed of what is going on is valuable. This information has been forwarded to the Housatonic River Estuary Commission.

**J. Clean Sweep: update**

Agent Gallagher reported as follows:

The 3rd annual Shelton Clean Sweep was a great success. We had 57 registered clean-ups and many other neighborhood clean-ups that were not registered. Hundreds of people were involved picking up litter from Shelton’s parks, waterways, and streets.

Thirty-one organizers have reported their take so far, which includes:

- 178 large garbage bags
- 22 tires
- “about 2000 lbs of scrap metal”
- a newspaper vending machine
- a toilet
- a “huge Volvo machine filter” dryer
- a couple of mufflers
- “3 large vans”
- a bicycle
- a tricycle
- the front end of a car
- air conditioner
- utility cables
- PVC pipes
- baby stroller
- and other assorted debris.

In addition, the annual Housatonic River Cleanup held on May 1 resulted in an enormous pile of litter pulled out of the river (see photos, although the photo is of the pile only halfway through the event). Most of the volunteers at the Housatonic River event were from Shelton High School.

As always, the Shelton Highways and Bridges department did a wonderful job responding to calls and picking up all the accumulated litter around the City.

The Mayor is planning to recognize Clean Sweep participants with a small event in June.

To view a slideshow of more Clean Sweep 2010 pictures click [here](#).
K. Review of PZC or IWC Applications for Subdivisions and/or Developments

1. Old Applications/Monitor/Follow-up
None

2. New Applications
None

L. Communications

- CT Woodlands – CT Forest & Parks Assoc. publication article about farmers trying to survive in the current economic climate. One of the farmers highlighted is Jones Family Farms.
- Housatonic Valley Association 2009 annual report. They are one of the organizations we contribute funds to. 38% of their expenses are for protecting land resources, 21% on water protection, 28% on outreach and education, 13% on administration or fund-raising. HVA has contributed to Shelton Life’s publications in the past.
- CT Forest & Parks Association annual meeting on May 20.
- Copy of the thank you letter sent to Bing Carbome for donating the 5 granite posts for the Rec path to replace the ones that were stolen.
- White Hills Fire Dept. is looking for a place for brush fire training. Agent Gallagher suggested the open space meadow at the Vistas at White Hills.
- Agent Gallagher reviewed some of the open space encroachment violations that she is working on.
- Commissioner Tate passed on some brochures – what is a conservation easement, managing your deer population, keeping horses in residential areas, striped turtles, etc.

M. Executive Session

Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to go into Executive Session for purposes of discussion possible land acquisitions and security issues at 8:21 P.M. SECONDED by Chairman Harbinson. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

The clerk forgot to turn the tape recorder back on.

At 8:40 P.M. Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to return to regular session. SECONDED by Commissioner Welsh. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.
It was noted that the Commissioners discussed security systems for their storage area and Vice-Chairman Dyer would investigate and report back to the Commission next meeting.

**N. Comments By Members**
Vice-Chairman Dyer said he is looking at getting quotes for the installation of the granite pillars. He is hoping that the quotes can come in under $1000.

**O. Adjournment**
The next regular meeting is Wednesday, June 2, 2010.

**Vice Chairman Dyer MOVED to adjourn. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor; MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:43 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Conservation Commission