City of Shelton Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes for  
June 1, 2016  

Members Present: Tom Harbinson, Sheri Dutkanicz, Pat Gajdosik, Jim Tate, Joe Welsh, Bill Dyer, Ed McCreery  

Also present: Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager  

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Chairman Tom Harbinson called for a moment of silence for former Commission member Hank Lauriat.  

2. Meeting Minutes: Pat Gajdosik made a motion to approve the May 2016 meeting minutes. Seconded by Bill Dyer. All were in favor.  

3. Public Portion – for items not on the agenda: No one wished to address the Commission at this time.  

4. Trails Committee Report. Bill Dyer summarized the Trails Committee meeting that immediately preceded the Conservation Commission. See the Trails Committee’s minutes for more information about that meeting.  

5. Review of proposals before the Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands Commissions:  

   a) Bridgeport Avenue Shelter Ridge Associates, LLC, P&Z #16-8, PDD Step #1 site plans, 122-acres bounded by Mill Street, Buddington Road, and Woodland Mobile Home Park, zoned Light Industrial. Map 50 Lot 9.  

   Tom Harbinson summarized the public hearing held earlier in the week, including a Powerpoint presentation he gave to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The opposition has hired an attorney. The hearing will be continued on June 28 at 7:00 pm at the Intermediate School.
6. **Communications:** Rick Schultz invited Tom Harbinson to a meeting to discuss the upcoming revised Plan of Conservation and Development on June 9 at 12:00 pm. The Commission discussed briefly what Conservation would like to communicate for the POCD update and determined that the Open Space Plan of 2009 contains the information needed.

7. **Executive Session:** Bill Dyer made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:25 pm to discuss potential land acquisitions. Joe Welsh seconded. All were in favor.

   The Commission came out of Executive Session at 7:40 pm. Tom Harbinson will discuss the potential property acquisition with Mayor Lauretti.

8. **Comments by Members:**
   Tom Harbinson said that strawberries at Jones Farm are ripening. June 10 is the average opening date for the farm and it’s been trending earlier. Blooming rhododendrons are a good indicator of strawberry picking season.

   Bill Dyer encouraged everyone to get out and walk the Marathon hikes.

   Ed McCreery said he was recently in Syracuse and was struck by the old architecture and amount of open land. Also, the Land Trust has acquired 4 acres along Rt 110 next to Countryside Veterinarians (the “Testo Property”), with Aquarion paying half the purchase price.

   Jim Tate said he wanted to discuss how best to memorialize Hank at the next meeting.

   Joe Welsh noted that National Trails Day is this weekend and the Land Trust is having a hike at 10:00 am at Nicholdale.

   Pat Gajdosik said she is in search of a source of local peaches. Connecticut peaches were hit hard by the February cold snap.

   Teresa Gallagher said that employees of the Nielson Company would be helping her remove invasive plants at Birchbank, especially the Japanese Knotweed.

The Commission adjourned at 7:45 pm.

*Meeting minutes were prepared by Teresa Gallagher and should be considered in draft form until adopted at the next meeting. Audio tapes of the meeting are on file in the Town Clerk’s office.*