Call to Order

Present: Tom Harbinson, Chairman
        Bill Dyer, Vice-Chairman
        Jim Tate, Commissioner
        Jim Goodman, Commissioner
        Sheryl Dutkanicz, Commissioner
        Joe Welsh, Commissioner (arrived at 7:35 P.M.)

Also Present:
Teresa Gallagher, Conservation Agent
Marianne Chaya, Clerk

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

Commissioner Goodman MOVED to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2010 regular meeting. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. 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 have a mountain of millings, most of which are not in the right place. I am going to meet with Dean Cawthra tomorrow and any of the Commissioners and Agent Gallagher is welcome to attend. Chairman Harbinson commented that the millings came from the Constitution Blvd. repaving project and had been coordinated with Tom Taylor, our Administrative Assistant, to be placed at various locations of the Rec Path. Vice-Chairman Dyer had gone with Dean Cawthra to the location and despite all that effort it has ended up in a big pile at the white house on Nells Rock Rd. Vice-Chairman Dyer said that there is also a pile at the Abbey Wright parking area and needs to be spread. They did go back to the white house and cleaned it up so that the driveway is passable. When I meet with Dean I will relay that what we want is for the millings to be spread at the bend of Oak Valley or better yet, open the gate and drive them in. I went out the other day and cut back some limbs so the trucks would be able to get through.

Chairman Harbinson stated that the Commission has offered to use funds from our budget for rental of a skid steer. The rental fee is $300/day, for up to 3 days. This piece of equipment is to be used to spread the millings on the Rec Path location in an area that is complicated to reach with conventional equipment. Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that we have been notified that we won the trails grant for $73K. $63K is for the Rec Path portion from the top of the Lane Street meadow to the end of the Lane Street extension. I have put together a statement of work (RFP) and have forwarded it to Commissioner Tate, Chairman Harbinson and Trails Committee member Terry Gallagher as a draft so we can go out to bid for four sections of the Rec Path. The bidders will have to bid on the first section and then the first plus the second, then the first, second and third, and then the first, second and fourth. The first section will probably take up the amount of money that we have available from the grant.

The Commissioners and Agent Gallagher discussed some of the details of the grant.

Commissioner Tate, Vice-Chairman Dyer and Agent Gallagher discussed some specific questions regarding the details of the Rec Path project.
Chairman Harbinson asked what is the time line goal? Vice-Chairman Dyer discussed his time goals of the process and hopes to have the construction to start around September/October.

**E. Trails Committee Report – Bill Dyer**

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported as follows:

1. **Trails Day**
   Saturday, June 5th is Trails Day and we have 3 trails events. One is the bridge-to-bridge (starting at the Community Center). There is a hike on the Paugusset blue dot trail extension and a habitat hike conducted by Agent Gallagher. Commissioner Tate mentioned that there would be a car show at the Shelton History Center on June 14th.

2. **Granite Pillars**
   The granite pillars are in and we need to get someone to pick them up and do the installation. Commissioner Tate said he might know someone that could do the installation.

3. **Guided Hikes**
   In July we are going to have a kayak event and an evening hike in August.

4. **Boy Scout Projects**
   I signed off on the projects done by Nick Shigo. He replaced the j-pond bridge and built the bike trail around the cliff. Kenny Giangregorio is doing another project.

**Expenses**
Receipts were turned in for reimbursement in the amount of $116.49 for plexiglass and screws for repairs done on the Lane Street kiosk.

**F. Dog Park Status**

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that the dog park committee has raised about $2000. The committee is planning to meet with the BOA at the August meeting to discuss funding for the fence. The Commissioners discussed other dog parks in the area. 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 Klapik site has been plowed and harrowed. The plots have been staked out and the area is still a bit rough and the gardeners are going to have work it over a little bit because harrowing is not the same as tilling. Richard Skudlarek from the Trails Committee went out and used his tiller on some of the area. I went out with a shovel to break up the clumps and it wasn't too bad. The soil is absolutely beautiful. There are 80 people on the list so the committee will be contacting the first 30 people to see if they are still interested and then work down the list. The garden has a locked gate and the gardeners will be given the combination after they pay the fee. The Mayor said that he would have Dean Cawthra tap into the water line and for this year run some type of hose system but we are telling the gardeners there is no guarantee of water for this year.
The Commission offered funds for the deer fence and Agent Gallagher has a P.O. for it and once we are ready to go will pick it up. Volunteers will have to install the fence.

Tape 1, Side B

H. Open Space Trust Account/Budget: status
Chairman Harbinson asked if our budget request was approved? Our budget request was the same as last year. Agent Gallagher said she has not seen an update. Chairman Harbinson said it would be nice to get some feedback from Finance since we spend so much time putting in the budget request and going to the A&T meetings.
Agent Gallagher said we have pretty much spent all our budget money for this year.

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

1. Old Applications/Monitor/Follow-up
None

2. New Applications
None

J. Communications
None
K. Executive Session

Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to go into Executive Session for purposes of discussion possible land acquisitions and security issues on our trails at 8:05 P.M. SECONDED by Chairman Harbinson. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

At 8:30 P.M. Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to return to regular session. SECONDED by Commissioner Welsh. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

L. Comments By Members

Vice-Chairman Dyer brought up the issue of deer and the great numbers in Shelton. There are other towns in this county that are banding together to come up with a solution. We should consider joining with the other towns. It’s called something like Fairfield County Alliance of Municipalities for Deer Management. This group lobbies the State to try to get the State to be more proactive and think of this issue more as a regional issue rather than just each town’s problem.

Maybe this Commission could recommend that we get involved in this group. Commissioner Tate asked about the laws regarding deer hunting. Agent Gallagher said that the laws’ regarding bow hunting is the most lenient with the longest season. We are in zone 11 for hunting due to our population.

The Commission talked about hunting in Shelton and the fact that hunting is not allowed on City open space.

Commissioner Welsh mentioned that he read about a study done on Lyme disease and they found that there is a greater tick population that has Lyme disease in barberry patches.

The Commission talked about ways they have heard about to reduce the deer population and keeping it low. The faster we do something the more impact it will have.

The Commissioners agreed that we should join the deer alliance.

M. Adjournment

The next regular meeting is Wednesday, July 7, 2010.

Vice Chairman Dyer MOVED to adjourn. SECONDED by Commissioner Goodman. All were in favor; MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Conservation Commission