Call to Order  ......................................................................................................... 1
A.  Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance ................................................................. 1
B.  Approval of Minutes .......................................................................................... 1
C.  Public Portion (items not on agenda) ............................................................... 2
   D.  Shelton Lakes Recreation Path, upgrade to handicapped accessible standards. Status .............................................................. 2
E.  Trails Committee Report .................................................................................. 3
F.  Dog Park and Planning for corner of Nells Rock Rd & Shelton Ave – status... 4
G.  Community Garden .......................................................................................... 5
H.  Open Space Trust Account: status ................................................................. 5
I.  Budget Status .................................................................................................. 5
K.  Open Space set-aside: Status of increase to 15% in subdivision regulations .5
L.  Review of PZC or IWC Applications for Subdivisions and/or Developments ...5
   1.  Old Applications/Monitor/Follow-up ............................................................ 5
   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.) ................................................................. 5
M.  Communications ............................................................................................. 5
N.  Quality of Life – Executive Session (land acquisition and security issues)...... 6
O.  Comments by members .................................................................................. 6
P.  Adjournment .................................................................................................... 6

Call to Order

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

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 7:00p.m. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

B.  Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Goodman MOVED to approve the minutes from the June 1,
2011 Regular 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 made spectacular progress. The original contract is basically completed. In addition to that they have moved the boy scout bridges, which was part of the recent modification to the contract. The City is now requiring the contractor to increase the performance bond to cover the $40,000 increase. This would cause about a $2000 expense to the contractor, even though they have billed essentially all the money in the existing contract. I have talked to Tom Welch to see what we can do, because they didn’t add that expense into their contract extension. Bottom line, they are doing a really good job on the Rec Path.

We met with representatives from the Iroquois Pipeline because we will be crossing the pipeline just before we get to the power lines (section 3a). The contractor will be putting a steel plate across the pipeline when they will be moving their equipment over it. The pipeline company will have a representative onsite when this work will be done. The contractors have finished the Wesley to Wesley crossing.

The members and Agent Gallagher talked about the City owned area and the paper street, which would be the City’s responsibility.

Vice-Chairman Dyer talked about a wooden sign that is rotting and obscuring the entrance to the Rec Path. He talked about some residents who were at first hesitant about the path and the fact that they now love the way it turned out. Chairman Harbinson suggested they write a letter to their Aldermen expressing their enthusiasm.

Vice-Chairman Dyer said that it is moving along so well and he encourages everyone to go and take a look if they haven’t already. There was a giant pile of millings from the road repaving of Route 108 that are now part of the Rec Path.

Chairman Harbinson mentioned having a formal unveiling of the Rec Path at the August meeting. Maybe Agent Gallagher could coordinate it where we could have the Mayor and the Aldermen attend and have a photo op and newspaper coverage. Agent Gallagher suggested doing it in September in case vacations become an issue.

Chairman Harbinson said he has an invoice from Pruzinsky and Sons for 100% completion of phase 3b and 100% completion of moving the Rec Path bridge. Is it completed?
Vice-Chairman Dyer said the 3b is completed and the moving of the bridge is completed but the contract is not signed due to the issue of the performance bond. I had them write up 2 new invoices.

**Commissioner McCreery MOVED to approve the revised invoices showing 100% completion of phase 3b (from the first crossing at Wesley Drive to the**
Chairman Harbinson explained the invoicing. Regarding the Eagle Scout bridge removal, we have to wait until the contract has been approved by the City before we can approve payment. Item C is for 50% completion of Phase 3a, which is from Wesley Dr. to Crabapple bridge, is complete up to the point of needing the top dressing, which we are holding off because you have to go over that area to get to the extra portion which will extend the Rec Path out to the power lines. A voice vote was taken, all were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Agent Gallagher asked for copies of the invoices so that she can submit for reimbursement of the grant.

Trails Committee member Terry Gallagher said that they are going to be installing temporary timber bollards at the crossings. We also will have to coordinate with the police department on painting the crosswalks on Wesley Drive. We think we will have finish work that will take us through August. We will be coordinating the fencing as well. At the next meeting we probably will be asking you for permission to purchase bollards. We will have a final count and placement info on the existing granite posts. Our plan is to have it done by the end of August. The Perkin Elmer employee volunteers will be doing mulching in various locations.

Chairman Harbinson suggested having representatives from the DEP present when we have the Rec Path unveiling.

Vice-Chairman Dyer said that the grant included mostly the construction of the Rec Path but also included equipment purchases. We are getting pricing for a mower, chipper and hand tools.

**E. Trails Committee Report**

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported on the Rec Path on the previous agenda item. The Trails Committee will be doing a work party at the Paugusset Trail (Blue Dot) on July 9th.

We will have volunteers from Perkin Elmer plus high school students to do trails work.

There will be a kayak trip on either July 23rd or 24th, depending on the tides. It will be publicized.

Invoices for reimbursement were presented for approval from Richard Skudlarek ($99.74), Bill Dyer ($75.00), and Terry Gallagher (Three invoices for $142.02, 84.27 & 19.97).

**Commissioner McCreery MOVED to approve expenses incurred by the Trails volunteers: Terrance Gallagher, for $84.27 (Knights in Orange), $19.97 (Lowe’s-Derby), $142.02. For Bill Dyer (Home Depot) $75.11, and Richard Skudlarek (Home Depot) $99.74. Payment is to come from the**
Land Improvements budget item. SECONDED by Commissioner Welsh. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

There is an Eagle Scout that is looking to work on the two bridges at Birchbank. Commissioner Goodman asked about the progress on the disk golf. Vice-Chairman Dyer said that we are waiting to see if there is public interest in pursuing this, like the dog park.

(For more detailed information on the Trails Committee see the minutes on line at http://www.cityofshelton.org/gengov/meetings/trailcommittee.htm)

F. Dog Park and Planning for corner of Nells Rock Rd & Shelton Ave – status

Vice-Chairman Dyer said that at some point this summer the white house at the property location will be removed. The dog park group is very active. They will be building their own shed for their own equipment. They took 3 of the parking spaces and planted flowers. According to Agent Gallagher it was because it was causing erosion and wearing away the roots of the tree.

Chairman Harbinson asked if we could have a coordinated effort of the activities that are occurring on that site? Vice-Chairman Dyer said apparently Mandy Oram checks everything through Ron Herrick (Parks & Rec). Chairman Harbinson said I know what we went through to attempt to put a trail on Mayflower Lane and this seems to be flying through with no holdups. Vice-Chairman Dyer said that someone just roto-tilled some of the parcel for no reason that we’re aware of. Agent Gallagher said that the Mayor requested it. Chairman Harbinson said we had a misunderstanding regarding the mason who was doing some volunteer work outside the dog park on Nells Rock Rd. I asked the Mayor and he said it is being done a little at a time and the money is coming from our Land Improvements budget line item. Chairman Harbinson said it’s apparent that there is a lack of communication as to what is going on at that location.

Vice-Chairman Dyer said he heard they are moving the port-a-potty. Chairman Harbinson said he said to the Mayor that we have been working hard to have a nice natural New England look to the Rec Path and it’s great that you are having work done to improve the stone wall and then you drop in a blue port-a-potty like you’re at the Vibes concert in Bridgeport. Can’t it be moved? Agent Gallagher said the Mayor did say something to her earlier.

Commissioner Goodman asked where the shed is going to be located? Vice-Chairman Dyer said that Mandy said she would be talking with Ron Herrick. I offered to provide the paint.
G. Community Garden
Agent Gallagher reported that community garden #2, Soundview Ave, is now open. The big problem we had was weather related. We had to wait until it was dry enough to get the equipment in there to remove the rocks. The equipment removed most of the rocks but it compacted the soil. We did lose some people because of our delay. The deer fence has been installed and the 2000 gallon water tank has been hooked up. The water tanks are located right behind the house. Corn was the crop in the past, and it does deplete the soil so I have recommended that they use some fertilizer and organics. Community garden #1 now has their water hooked up.

H. Open Space Trust Account: status
No report.

I. Budget Status
No report.

K. Open Space set-aside: Status of increase to 15% in subdivision regulations
No report

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. Communications
- Newsletter from CACIWC
- Application to renew membership at CACIWC-Chairman Harbinson authorized renewal
- Basil’s Brook officially has names for Basil Difkofsky (motion at the June 9th BOA meeting)
• 8-24 referral request for rental/and/or sale of the 1-acre lot of the City’s single-family dwelling located at 279 Soundview Ave. Chairman Harbinson commented on points that are salient to Conservation’s desires for that parcel. It was sent via email to Rick Schultz which was incorporated in their motion. (June 16th P&Z meeting). There is a proposal for a 1-lot subdivision.

Commissioner Welsh said that he likes idea proposed last year regarding the coordination through UCONN where they would match up people who could live there and farm the property. Chairman Harbinson said he recalled we looked into it but it never went anywhere. Commissioner Welsh said that now that the community garden is there the resident could become the overseer of the garden. Chairman Harbinson said that Commissioner Welsh could look into and see if there is still any interest in that concept, go for it.

N. Quality of Life – Executive Session (land acquisition and security issues)

Commissioner Welsh MOVED at 7:53 P.M. to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing potential land acquisition and security issues. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Tape 1, Side B

Chairman Harbinson MOVED to return to Regular Session at 8:25 P.M. SECONDED by Commissioner Welsh. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Chairman Harbinson stated that there were a couple of properties for potential acquisition in Executive Session. We have one in which a recent appraisal had been prepared with a valuation. Vice-Chairman Dyer and Chairman Harbinson will schedule a meeting the Mayor to discuss how to proceed in the negotiation towards that acquisition. We discussed some security issues on our trails and open space but no motions were made.

O. Comments by members

None

P. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.
The next regular meeting is Wednesday, August 3, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Chaya