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

Also Present: Teresa Gallagher, Conservation Agent
Helen Solotruk, Clerk
Terry Gallagher, Trails Committee

A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
Vice-Chairman Dyer called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:08 p.m. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Commissioner McCreery, seconded by Commissioner Welsh, to approve the minutes of the last two meetings. Vote – All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

C. Public Portion (Items Not on Agenda)
Vice-Chairman Dyer stated that there is no report at this time.
D. Trails Committee Report

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that during the month of July there were two full work parties resulting in improvements to the Abby Wright trail head, creation of a parking area off Buddington Road and a large amount of work done to beautify the Rec Path near Silent Waters. Jim Taradine and Richard Skudlarik did quite a bit of mowing in various locations. A Bike Hike was held. There is a variety of Eagle Scout Projects underway and there were two weddings held on the trails. Vice-Chairman Dyer reported on the Hope Lake Bridge and the repairs that are needed. He reported that the Committee will be meeting to discuss repairs to be made. Discussion.

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported on the issues with Harriet’s Bench. Discussion. Commissioner Welsh suggested moving Harriett’s Bench to a better location and stated that the Land Trust would be fine with the decision.

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported on the issues that ASO Sports is having with parking and garbage behind their building, which is where the Far Mill Trail is accessed. Discussion of the Pearl Bach area, the swimming hole and the issues with parking in Pine Rock Park. Discussion of permits being issued and placing signs on the roads.

Commissioner McCreery made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dyer, to write a letter to Mayor Lauretti and Alderman John Anglace, with a copy to the Board of Alderman, stating we recognize the request to the Conservation Agent by Alderman Anglace that there be restrictive signs prepared for the Pearl Bach property, an open space parcel, restricting it to permit holding residents, presumably the neighborhood residents, and we object to any city open space being either a) restricted by permit or b) being restricted to any particular neighborhood. Open space is intended for free usage by all residents without restriction and it is overkill if you are trying to address out of town parkers on the local streets. Discussion. Vote – All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Terry Gallagher reported that the Trails Committee suggests talking to ASO Sports regarding cleaning up the area in September, adding trash barrels, and checking if they have security cameras installed. Terry Gallagher also suggested discussing with them how to improve the situation. Discussion.

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported the Trails Committee will have a Booth at Shelton Day and would like to have Trail Maps printed. Discussion. A motion was made by Chairman Harbinson, seconded by Commissioner McCreery, to print the same trail maps as last year to be paid for out of the Conservation Commission’s budget. Vote – All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that there will be a Moon Trail Walk held on September 19, 2013 at 8:00 p.m. at the Lane Street Meadow.

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that there will be no trail race this year.

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that this Saturday, August 10th, there will be a work party at Riverview Park to clean-up the area.
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that on Saturday, August 24th, there will be a work party at the Paugussett Trail small bridge to do repairs and clearing on the Nells Rock Trail. Vice-Chairman Dyer reported there are currently six Eagle Scout Projects being done.

E. Open Space Trust Account Status
No Report.

F. Budget Status
Chairman Harbinson announced a budget report for the end of the last fiscal year will be available soon.

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

1. Old Applications/Monitor/Follow-up
   i. PZC 13-5 Hawks Ridge, Long Hill Cross Road/Beard Sawmill Rd, PDD zone change from Light Industrial for 140 residential units
      UPDATE – DENIED FOR ZONE CHANGE

2. New Applications
   NONE

H. Communications (Sent or Received)

- Chairman Harbinson reported that the City of Shelton received an Army Corp Engineer Notification regarding an application to do a commercial boating facility off of River Road behind Latex Foam. Discussion.
- Chairman Harbinson reported a letter was sent to Mayor Lauretti regarding access to the Huntington Center Rec Path near Lane Street.
- Chairman Harbinson reported that Mayor Lauretti sent a letter to the USDA requesting a City Farmlands Soil Designation. Discussion.
- Agent Gallagher reported she received a newsletter regarding chainsaw safety.

At this time, Chairman Harbinson announced that the Public Portion of the Meeting will begin.
Guy Beardsley spoke to the committee regarding farming of a new type of potato. Discussion. Mr. Beardsley also discussed the use of purslane for cooking. Mr.
Beardsley reported the farm communities have decided that the tomatoes are late this year due to an abundance of rain and hot temperatures.

Mr. Beardsley reported that there is a Farmer’s Market held on Wednesday’s at BIC at 12:00 p.m. and on Thursday’s at the Scinto Buildings. Mr. Beardsley reported that more people have come to this markets this year than ever before. Mr. Beardsley reported that potato fields are open in the Shelton Land Trust.

Tape 1, Side B

I. Quality of Life – Executive Session (Land Acquisition and Security Issues)

A motion was made by Chairman Harbinson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dyer, to go into Executive Session at 7:57 p.m. to discuss land acquisitions and security issues.

Chairman Harbinson noted at 8:13 p.m. the committee ended Executive Session and reported that no motions were made while in Executive Session.

J. Comments By Members

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that Shelton Life was sent out.

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported according to the Shelton Herald the next Riverwalk Phase will be next fall. Discussion of reducing the Riverwalk from a 12 ft. width to a 10 ft. width.

Commissioner Dutkanicz reported Connecticut made history with their decision to vote in favor of having GMO’s labeled. Discussion.

Commissioner Dutkanicz reported that she has the numbers of someone who is licensed for bow hunting for the purpose of deer control.

Commissioner McCreery reported that there was a work party at Nicholdale and it looks great.

Chairman Harbinson reported that the Public Health & Safety Committee was going to have a preliminary meeting last night but the meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled. Discussion.

K. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, September 4, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Solotruck
Clerk, Conservation Commission