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**Call to Order**

Present: Tom Harbinson, Chairman (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)
Bill Dyer, Vice-Chairman
Jim Tate, Commissioner
Ed McCreery, Commissioner
Sheryl Dutkanicz, Commissioner
Joe Welsh, Commissioner

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

**A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice-Chairman Dyer called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order
at 7:05 p.m. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
B. Approval of Minutes
Commissioner Tate MOVED to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2010 regular meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner McCreery. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

C. Public Portion
None

D. Shelton Lakes Recreation Path – upgrade to handicapped accessible standards-status
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that there are millings located on Oak Valley Rd Rec Path but no progress has been made for the last 3 weeks due to the fact that Dean Cawthra hurt his back and has been unable to spread them. Now it’s getting close to the schools reopening so they will probably be tied up with that. The Commissioners asked why is only Dean the one who can spread the millings and Vice-Chairman Dyer explained that Dean is the only one that is authorized by the insurance company to drive the bulldozer.
We authorized the rental of a skid steer for up to 3 days and so far we have not been able to rent it.
(Chairman Harbinson arrived)
Commissioner Tate asked Vice-Chairman Dyer when, by not moving the millings, might hold us up. Chairman Dyer said that we have told the contractor bidders that there will be millings all the way up to the power lines. Most likely we will be awarding the contract the first part of October. By then we should have the millings moved and some trees need to be cut to get the millings onto the Rec path.
Commissioner Tate stated that about ½ of what is now located at the Nells Rock Rd. location is going to be used for the access road to the Long Hill School fields. These will be moved by private contractors, not by the City. Vice-Chairman Dyer said that Parks & Rec is planning on using about ½ of the millings for the dog park parking area.
The Commissioners discussed millings and when they think there will be more available for the paths.
Commissioner Tate offered some loam if there is a need on any of the paths. Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that on July 27th they had the mandatory meeting for potential contractors for the Rec path construction. There were 16 contractors who showed up. Since then we have received questions from the bidders that needs to be answered.
Vice-Chairman Dyer went over the questions with the Commissioners and they gave their input.
The bids are due August 26 and will be opened at the evening meeting. The Commissioners talked about the bid awarding process.
Trails Committee member Terry Gallagher mentioned that he inquired as to the status of the funds due from the DEP grant. Apparently the Federal Highway Administration is holding up all recreational trails grants now because they are having some issues with the DEP, and I don’t know what it is. I have a contact person and I informed that we have bids out now for work on the Rec Path and have plans to use those funds for this project. I will follow up with them tomorrow.

Vice-Chairman Dyer said that he told the contractors that most likely the bid would be awarded mid to late October.

### E. Trails Committee Report

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that the trails committee spent most of their meeting discussing the Rec Path bidding process.

We are having an event on August 18th for an evening hike at Lane Street at 7 pm. We are also having a public event on Saturday, September 18th. We will have a work party this Saturday and again in two weeks.

There are a few expenses for reimbursement.

We will have a Boy Scout project coming up and will give you the details later.

Chairman Harbinson said he knows of a scout from Seymour that has been trying to do an Eagle Scout project and has been unable to connect with the Seymour Land trust. Maybe we have something for him.

### F. Riverwalk Site Plan Review

Agent Gallagher presented the latest site plans for the Riverwalk. The Commissioners spent quite a bit of time reviewing and commenting on the new plans and directed Agent Gallagher to write a letter to Jim Ryan at SEDC detailing their comments.

Tape 1, Side B

### G. Park Signage

Agent Gallagher had sent an email with a photo of the open space sign in Fairfield as an example.

Agent Gallagher said that Tom Taylor had wanted to come tonight but had a conflict. She said that Mr. Taylor wanted to talk about signage. I don’t think that he cares exactly what the signage is but as long as it is consistent citywide.

Chairman Harbinson asked if we are talking about just open space properties or Parks & Rec facilities? Agent Gallagher said that it is just for open space.

Commissioner Tate expressed his feelings about signs regarding the open space and rural character of the town. There are some places that probably need signs because it is inevitable that it will be signed. You have to look at the type of signs you need and the life of the sign. The first thing that goes on a sign
typically is the writing on the sign; it fades. Then the posts, which are typically
cedar or pressure treated pine erodes. The signs now typically have plastic or
pvc posts. What I suggest is to go to the guy that designed our Shelton Lakes
logo and have him design a sign model.
Commissioner Dutkanicz expressed her feelings of the type of signage she
would like to see in the City. She prefers the look of the wood sign. The wood
sign that Fairfield used is more typical of what you would expect to see in open
space. Commissioner McCreery agreed.
The Commissioners talked about logos.
Vice-Chairman Dyer said that long ago we talked about this and had decided that
the brown sign with white letters should be the sign standard.
The Commissioners and Agent Gallagher talked about maybe having two types
of signs, one for the more rustic type of areas and one for the park-like areas.
Commissioner Dutkanicz said, once we decide on the two designs then we could
decide where they would be appropriate.

**H. Dog Park**
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that the fence bids would be opened tomorrow.
We do have an issue with the parking area. The millings will be used for the
parking area. I think the design is terrible and we were not given the opportunity
to comment. It seems that the design that we did review and comment on has
not changed.

**I. Community Garden**
Agent Gallagher reported that it is going great and she had a great harvest. The
fencing is keeping out the deer, woodchucks and rabbits.
The Commissioners commented that their observations are very positive and
people they know that have a plot are extremely happy.
There was discussion about the water and Agent Gallagher said that most of the
time she has to bring her own.

Tape 2, Side A

Chairman Harbinson suggested talking to the fire dept. to see if they have any
available for them.

**J. Eklund Garden**
Agent Gallagher reported that it is really dry and some of the plants have died off.
I wanted to take the tank Dean had and put it above the garden area but when I
had the opportunity to do it, it rained. I haven’t had a chance to get back there.
Perhaps the fire dept. could be of some help as well.
Commissioner Welsh said he’d check with the water company to see if they
could help.
K. Open Space Trust Account-status
Chairman Harbinson reported that he talked with John Anglace and the Mayor about the ordinance requiring the funding of the account. I believe it will be addressed at tomorrow night’s BOA meeting.

L. Budget Status
Chairman Harbinson asked Agent Gallagher if we still had plenty of money in our budget. Agent Gallagher said yes.

M. Open Space set-aside: Status of increase to 15% in subdivision regulations
Chairman Harbinson reported that Rick Schultz had sent an email to Agent Gallagher that was forwarded to us regarding available dates for a meeting to go over the reasoning for increasing the set-aside in the subdivision regulations.

N. Review of PZC or IWC Applications for Subdivisions and/or Developments
1. Old Applications/Monitor/Follow-up
None

2. New Applications
None

O. Communications
- CACIWC newsletter
- Letter from P&Z that the CC was copied on to Jim Swift regarding the two-lot subdivision on Buddington Road and one of the conditions of approval was that they had to adhere to the requirements of the Conservation Commission Trails Committee memo dated July 8, 2010.
- Information regarding the removal of Japanese knotweed.

Chairman Harbinson MOVED to authorize Agent Gallagher to acquire the injection system to apply the herbicide to invasive species such as the Japanese knotweed, in the amount of $189.97 plus any accessories need. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

P. Quality of Life - Executive Session
1. Security Issues – Vice-Chairman Dyer said that we might move one of the cameras to another location to monitor the activity.
Agent Gallagher said that she is now focusing on the Birchbank area for ATV activity. I sent out over 100 letters to neighbors asking for their assistance to notify me if they see any ATV activity, anonymous if they prefer. I have also requested that Aquarion look at blocking and signing the ATV entrance that comes from the railroad tracks through their property. I also asked that they notify the police that they don’t want ATV’s on their property. I also have gone to P&Z regarding the Twisted Vine subdivision. We have ATV activity coming from Okenuck. I have asked if they can block it off and put some kind of signage.

Q. Comments By Members

Agent Gallagher commented about the abundance of cucumbers. Commissioner Tate said that there was a huge area of sod laid at the Long Hill School but there is a conflict brewing about usage of the school fields. There should be a meeting to resolve it but the issue is there are a lot of new groups soliciting to use the city fields. Apparently there are some groups who have taken it upon themselves to maintain the fields. We should be very stringent about the usage of open space. Right now we have some of the open space that is being used without any due process. We need to write down what that process is, very simply, and make sure everybody gets it. The Commission talked about the fields, usage and who has jurisdiction, and when.

R. Adjournment

The next regular meeting is Wednesday, September 1, 2010.

Vice Chairman Dyer MOVED to adjourn. SECONDED by Commissioner McCreery. All were in favor; MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Conservation Commission