CITY OF SHELTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes for the Regular Meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.
Minutes should be considered a draft version until approved by CC at their next meeting.

A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance – 7:00 P.M.

Chairman Harbinson called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:08 p.m. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Tom Harbinson, Chairman
Bill Dyer, Vice-Chairman
James Tate, Commissioner
Ed McCreery, Commissioner
Joe Walsh, Commissioner
Teresa Gallagher, Conservation Agent

Also Present: Terry Gallagher

A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Harbinson 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 Dutkanicz, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dyer, to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2014 meeting. Vote – All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

**C. Public Portion (Items Not on Agenda)**

Guy Beardsley discussed the license agreement for the Farmer’s Market. Terry Jones and Guy met with Mayor Lauretti who was also on a conference call with Attorney Welsh, Alderman Anglace, Alderman Papa and Mike Sousa to discuss the renewal of the license agreement which goes before the Board of Aldermen at their next meeting for a vote. One item of significance is that we are changing the wording from local farms to State of Connecticut farms. There was discussion of allowing New York farms to participate but, since the Farmers Market is a WIC market, all produce must be from Connecticut only. Also, the wording “produce” has been changed to “produce and products”. Discussion.

**D. Trails Committee Report**

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that there were 2 work parties during the month of September:
- Re-established the Bluff Walk – The trail which goes around Riverview Park
- Started trail along Route 108 connecting behind the Intermediate School so walkers can do a loop from Pine Lake, straight across Constitution Boulevard North and then follow this new trail back to the Rec Path and to where they parked. This trail will be completed on Saturday, October 11th. Discussion of pedestrian crossing in this area.

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that the bench at Silent Water has been installed permanently.

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that the Trails Committee is all set for Shelton Day and they will be there by 9:00 a.m. to set up. Discussion.

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that the Moonlight Meander Hike will be held on Wednesday, October 8th at night.

Vice-Chairman Dyer discussed the land along the river that UI has offered to donate to the city.

Vice-Chairman Dyer requested authorization and approval to purchase a pallet of pressure treated rails. Discussion. Chairman Harbinson reported that this money will be charged to the Land Improvement account.
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that the Turkey Trot will be held on Saturday, November 29th.
Conservation Agent Gallagher reported that she is holding a Biodiversity Hike on Sunday, November 16th at 1:00 p.m. This is being sponsored by the Shelton Library.
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that 3 Eagle Scout projects have been completed:
- Beech Tree Hill project
- Birchbank trail improvements
- Paugussett kiosk on Buddington Road
Terry Gallagher reported that during September the Litter Committee has been out cleaning up the Far Mill Trail behind ASO Sports. Discussion of amount of litter that was picked up.

E. Open Space Trust Account Status
No Report.

F. Budget Status
No Report.

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

1. Old Applications/Monitor/Follow-up
   i. Water’s Edge of Shelton PZC #14-8, 14-unit PDD on 3.1 acres at 500 River Road on the Housatonic River including a marina with 6 slips.

   Chairman Harbinson requested that this item be removed since the PDD was approved by Planning & Zoning and there was no dedication to open space. Discussion of conservation easement still open.

2. New Applications
   i. 235 TS Estates PZC #14-18, 3-lot subdivision at 235 Thompson Street. Applicant is requesting a waiver of the open space payment-in-lieu-of fee.
Conservation Agent Gallagher reported that the owner has no basis for this request and he has changed his mind and is withdrawing this request. Chairman Harbinson questioned if this is an open space dedication or a fee-in-lieu-of payment. Is there open space surrounding the Thompson Street area or the potential for open space or is there a value to have open space on that subdivision location? Discussion. A motion was made by Commissioner McCreery, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dyer, to accept the fee-in-lieu-of payment for the subdivision on 235 Thompson Street due to the fact that there is no open space in its vicinity or potential for open space in its vicinity and, the stone walls that are along the frontage of Thompson Street where the new driveways would break through, that those stone walls be re-purposed in some fashion at the entrance way to maintain the character of the neighborhood. Discussion. Vote – All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

H. Ad-Hoc Committee Reports – Conservation Agent

1. Deer Committee
Conservation Agent Gallagher discussed the draft that she is currently working on. Discussion of various endangered species.

2. Community Gardens Committee
   - Eklund Garden
   - Dog Park Garden
Conservation Agent Gallagher reported that there will be a meeting next week to discuss the clean-up for the end of the season. Discussion.

3. Anti-Litter Committee
Conservation Agent Gallagher reported that the Committee is going to focus on the Far Mill River area. Discussion of different clean-ups.

Tape 1 – Side B

I. Communications (Sent or Received)
No Report.

J. Grant Compliance Status for 7 DEEP Open Space Grants and 2 FRPP Agricultural PDR Grants – Conservation Agent
No Report.
K. Quality of Life – Executive Session (Land Acquisition and Security Issues)
No Report.

L. Comments By Members
Vice-Chairman Dyer questioned the property on Perry Hill Road being approved for a PDD with no open space. Discussion. A motion was made by Commissioner McCreery, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dyer, to send a letter to the Planning & Zoning Commission stating that in light of the Perry Hill Road application, we feel that it is worth restating what we always understood, that the purpose of a PDD was never intended, nor is it property used, to simply throw out the current zoning regulations for the purpose of increasing density, especially in a situation that has no relationship to a planned conservation development. Discussion. Commissioner McCreery withdrew his motion and Vice-Chairman Dyer withdrew his second. Discussion.
Commissioner Dutkanicz would like to attend the conference being held on November 15th in Wallingford regarding global changes. A motion was made by Commissioner Tate, seconded by Commissioner Walsh, to approve Commissioner Dutkanicz and staff to attend this conference to represent the Conservation Commission. Vote – All in favor. MOTION PASSED.
Vice-Chairman Dyer discussed the parcel of land across from Sunwood Condos. Discussion of camp grounds in the area.
Commissioner Dutkanicz followed up on the Environmental Science class at the High School. Discussion.
Commissioner Walsh reported that next Tuesday will be the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium which will be held at UCONN, Storrs from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Discussion.

M. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, November 5, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Solotruk
Clerk, Conservation Commission