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

Also Present:  Terry Gallagher, Trails Committee

A.  Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
Vice-Chairman Dyer called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order
at 7:05 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 August 7, 2013 meeting. Vote – All in favor. MOTION PASSED.

C.  Public Portion (Items Not on Agenda)
Vice-Chairman Dyer and the Commission welcomed Shelton resident, Mike Formato, of 87 Longmeadow Road. Mr. Formato discussed the water chestnut
issue in Means Brook. Mr. Formato reported that he has been down to the Brook and the water chestnut is everywhere. He tried to pull out as much as he could but he could only do so much. The area he was in was between Treeland Road and Brownson Drive and Longmeadow Roads. He reported that he has sent pictures to Conservation Agent Teresa Gallagher. Terry Gallagher discussed how to control the growth of water chestnuts. Commissioner Welsh recommended contacting the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group at UCONN which has an entire website dedicated to this and they also coordinate volunteers to help with removal. Discussion.

Chairman Harbinson and the Commission welcomed Guy Beardsley. Mr Beardsley reported that the locks have been changed on the Farmer’s Market and last Friday night he went there and the doors were wide open and today when he went there the inside was a mess with food and things spilled all over the floor. Discussion. Chairman Harbinson requested that Mr. Beardsley contact City Hall to let them know about what is taking place.

Mr. Beardsley reported that there has not been a frost yet but rain is needed. He reported that the squash is thriving this year.

Mr. Beardsley reported that on Wednesday, October 9th Comcast is going to video tape activities at the Farmer’s Market. Discussion. Mr. Beardsley reported that the Farmer’s Market will continue through the first weekend in November, skip two weekends and be back the weekend before Thanksgiving. Discussion.

Chairman Harbinson and the Commission welcomed Tom Savarese from Scout Troop 27. Tom discussed his Eagle Scout project. He would like to do trail stabilization on the Birchbank Trail at Indian Wells. He explained that he would try to stop erosion from happening by setting up a rock garden off the trail. He has five locations he would like to work on and he will recruit ten of his troop members, family and friends to help him. He would like to divide into 5 groups and each group would work on a specific area of the trail. The average size of the areas to work on are approximately 2 feet across. The tools needed will be brought by the volunteers and the rocks will be provided. Once the project is approved, he would get the materials and organize work parties to begin in either late fall or early spring. He will then show Scouts how to stabilize a trail. Discussion. Chairman Harbinson stated that Terry Gallagher will be the signatory on behalf of the City of Shelton Conservation Commission for this Eagle Scout project. Discussion. 

A motion was made by Commissioner McCreery, seconded by Vice-Chairman Dyer, to approve the Eagle Scout project presented to the Commission this evening and to authorize Terry Gallagher to coordinate activities of signing off paperwork as a representative of the City and to coordinate committee volunteers and any materials that we might be able to supplement from our budget. Vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

Tape 1, Side B
D. Trails Committee Report
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that there were many activities/projects completed in September which included a Harvest Moon hike, two letterboxing hikes, two large and several small work parties and re-blazing various sections of the Paugussett Extension Trail.
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that he had met with John Papa and residents from Mayflower Lane regarding trail relocation.
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that he and Conservation Agent Gallagher walked the nearly six mile Paugussett Extension Trail with the CPFA representative and he had some recommendations where there could be more blazes. The representative did say that he will be approving this and it will be submitted at the December meeting to become an Official Blue Blaze Trail. Discussion.
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that the Hope Lake Bridge needs to be completely removed and it will be worked on beginning this Saturday. Discussion.
Vice-Chairman Dyer discussed Shelton Day which is being held on Sunday, October 6th. The Trails Committee requests help at their Booth if anyone is available.
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that there will be a Nature Hike held on Saturday, October 12th at 1:00 p.m. at Nells Rock.
Terry Gallagher reported that there has been a tremendous amount of work done on the Paugussett and it looks great. Terry Gallagher reported that the Trails Committee has cleaned up the Far Mill Trail and cleared out brush. Discussion.
Vice-Chairman Dyer submitted expenses from Trails Committee members to be reimbursed to the Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner McCreery, seconded by Commissioner Welsh, to approve reimbursements in the amount of $32.01 to Richard Skudlarek and in the amount of $250.46 to Terry Gallagher. Vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

E. Open Space Trust Account Status
No Report.

F. Budget Status
No Report.

G. Water Chestnut in Means Brook
Vice-Chairman Dyer stated that this was discussed in the Public Portion of the meeting.
H. 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

   Commissioner McCreery reported that this was withdrawn and will be resubmitted in November.

2. New Applications
   None

I. Communications (Sent or Received)
No Report.

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

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Dyer, seconded by Commissioner Welsh, to go into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss land acquisitions and security issues. Vote – all in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner McCreery noted at 8:13 p.m. the Commission ended Executive Session and reported that no motions were made while in Executive Session.

K. Comments By Members

Discussion of the Great Give taking place today and tomorrow.

L. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 P.M.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, November 6, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Solotruk
Clerk, Conservation Commission