City of Shelton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
October 5, 2016

Members Present: Bill Dyer, Pat Gajdosik, Jim Tate, Joe Welsh, Tom Harbinson (arrived at 7:08)

Absent: Sheri Dutkanicz, Ed McCreery, Teresa Gallagher (staff)

Also present: Terrance Gallagher, Trails Committee member.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Bill Dyer.

2. Meeting Minutes: Pat Gajdosik made a motion to approve the September 7, 2016 meeting minutes. Seconded by Joe Welsh. All were in favor.

3. Public Portion – for items not on the agenda: No one wished to address the Commission at this time.

4. Trails Committee Report. Tom Harbinson arrived at 7:08. Bill Dyer summarized the Trails Committee meeting that preceded the Conservation Commission meeting. Refer to the Trails Committee meeting minutes for more information.

Bench Donations: Alderman Anthony Simonetti offered eleven park benches, constructed with concrete ends and wood slabs. Sheri Dutkanicz offered to supply a truck for transport. The Trails Committee is willing to replace old wood and shorten the benches to discourage large groups of kids. The question is: Are the benches something the Conservation Commission agrees with? Are they appropriate for the Rec Path, or we could put them elsewhere along the trails? We would like to put some of them on the Rec Path so people have a place to sit.

Jim Tate said the benches should not go along the Rec Path. Terry Gallagher said they came up with a list of eleven places, including some locations along the Rec Path, where the Trails Committee would like to put the benches. Tom Harbinson suggested we grab them, put them in storage, and then we have them available to place as needed, whether it’s Conservation, or the gardens, or the dog park.
Jim Tate said his personal vision of the Rec Path is that it would be as natural looking as possible, and maybe a bench like this is fine at the trail heads or at the entryways, but when you’re in the woods, the concrete municipal bench would give the Rec Path a whole different flavor of what the Rec Path was all about, and that bothers me somewhat. I think we could do a better job than that.

Jim Tate said I think we ought to look into getting a couple of benches made that we like, such as a slab wood bench. He said he would send a picture. They need 3-5 benches along the Rec Path to start out. Pat Gajdosik commented that these benches would get carved and marked up.

Tom Harbinson said the consensus is to receive the donation from Anthony Simonetti, temporarily stage them at Sheri Dutkanicz’s property, and then we’ll decide how to distribute them from there. Jim Tate added: And then we’ll work on a project to get four new log slab benches.

**Rec Path surfacing:** Bill Dyer talked to the Mayor, who said know was a good time to talk to the contractor who worked on the Rec Path last year. Last year the work was done in January and February and we were lucky that there was no snow. They need to resurface from Pine Lake to Rt 108 with 3/8” stone dust. The total will probably be around $10,000. It’s about $2500 for the material and the remainder is for the contractor.

**Tom Harbinson made a motion to authorize Bill Dyer to work with the Purchasing Department to get bids (if required) for the contractor and the materials to resurface the Rec Path from Pine Lake to Rt 108. Jim Tate seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Expenses:** Bill Dyer made a motion to reimburse Terry Gallagher $68.09 for a laminated open space map for Shelton Day, two bee sting kits, two rolls of plastic tarp, and gas for power tools. Seconded by Tom Harbinson. All were in favor.

Terry Gallagher pointed out a box with trail tools that were purchased at the Big E from a company located in Southington, including a ratcheting pruner and a saw blade. They had a booth in the Connecticut state building. The tools were made in Connecticut.

5. Review of proposals before the Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands Commissions:

   a) Bridgeport Avenue Shelter Ridge Associates, LLC, P&Z #16-8, PDD Step #1 site plans, 122-acres bounded by Mill Street, Buddington Road, and Woodland Mobile Home Park, zoned Light Industrial. Map 50 Lot 9.
Tom Harbinson said the public hearing was closed at the last meeting. The traffic study was received and a few people spoke to that.

6. Communications Received:
   a  CACIWC annual conference registrations Nov 12 in Rocky Hill
   b  CT Wildlife magazine
   c  Letter from Matt Popp, Environmental Land Solutions, in response to Teresa Gallagher’s letter concerning vernal pools and spotted turtles near the Shelter Ridge site
   d  Copy of letter to Roger Spinelli from Frank Cagliaro, CT DEEP, Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division, concerning “authorization for the disruption of a historic unpermitted solid waste disposal area” along Independence Drive, proposed 2-lot subdivision. Bill Dyer said that area flows into Silent Waters. Joe Welsh asked: Did anything other than sponge rubber get dumped in there so that they need to put in a monitoring well? Who knows what they are going to find. Tom Harbinson read a section of the authorization that requires a contingency plan for any unexpected materials that are uncovered during the site excavation. Tom Harbinson said Teresa Gallagher should contact the DEEP and ask that Conservation be put on the list of entities to be copied in on any correspondences regarding the remediation since Shelton’s open space is downstream.
   e  Letter hand-delivered from W.P. Loman of Orange, CT, asking whether the Conservation Commission has “ever expressed opposition to the deformation of Two Mile Island and the Housatonic River’s once navigable waterway.” Tom Harbinson noted that it was an airport at one point. It was called Island Airport. His father helped dismantle a plane there. It’s existed as a peninsula for a pretty long time. The letter notes that the Orange side of the river is eroding due to the increased flow in the east channel. Bill Dyer noted the train runs right along the shore. Commission members did not know of any involvement of the Conservation Commission with Two Mile Island.

7. Forest Management: Teresa Gallagher had brought up the concept of selected logging and forest management, but since she is not here that topic can wait until next month.

8. Comments by Members: Jim Tate noted household hazardous waste day is once a year, but what if you have hazardous waste some other day? Tom Harbinson thought you could go to any of the hazardous waste days in the Valley.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm

Meeting minutes were prepared by Teresa Gallagher and should be considered in draft form until adopted at the next meeting. Audio tapes of the meeting are on file in the Town Clerk’s office.