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Call to Order

Present:  Tom Harbinson, Chairman  
Bill Dyer, Commissioner  
Hank Lauriat, Commissioner  
Jim Tate, Commissioner  
Joe Welsh, Commissioner  

Absent:  Ed McCreery, Commissioner  

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

Pledge of Allegiance  
Chairman Harbinson called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of October 4, 2006

Commissioner Lauriat MOVED to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2006 regular meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Dyer. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

Public Portion

None

Review of P&Z Applications for Subdivisions and/or Development

Henry Mileski, 33 Murphy’s Lane (request to modify conservation easement)  

Mr. Mileski stated that he has been a Shelton taxpayer for 42 years and at one time I was the 10th highest taxpayer in Shelton. I submitted the original plans to change one area to another (pointed out maps). Consequently, what happened is Rick Schultz called me and said that he didn’t like the right-of-way going this way (pointed out on maps) – he wanted to go right across the whole back side of the lot because he didn’t want any trees cut down or anything removed from that...
area. I agreed and I had a surveyor draw up a plan according to the way the town wanted it. From what I hear they denied it and I feel that I have been a resident for many years. I started this back in the 80's. What happened is when I developed this (pointing to maps of “Miles View”), the town requested that I give this lot here. What happened was at the meeting when I finally got approvals one of the board members said that unless I gave the other lot they would not give approvals. I needed it desperately because the gas company was going through and I wanted to collect something for damages. I gave that lot but what happened is with this development here, I went through a divorce, which cost me a lot of money. What happened is that I let this go beyond the 5 years and they withdrew it and I couldn’t build on it. I have been with the Mayor and I’ve been trying to work so I can get these two lots back because what happened with this situation here I sold it for $300,000 for the 19 acres. These two lots are worth a half-million today.

Chairman Harbinson asked if Mr. Mileski is trying to get the lots back now? Mr. Mileski said I was trying for years to get them back. How do you get them back?

Chairman Harbinson asked if this relates to your property now?

Mr. Mileski responded yes. What happened is they weren’t supposed to take this until I got a building permit. They took it before; which they should never had done.

Chairman Harbinson asked, did they take it or did you deed it over?

Mr. Mileski answered that I deeded it because they forced me; otherwise they wouldn’t give me approvals.

Chairman Harbinson asked, does this relate to your parcel?

Mr. Mileski answered yes, this relates to the parcel right-of-way. I want to build a driveway. It encroaches on the present easement. I would like to have that easement extended to this new one here.

Chairman Harbinson asked, clarify for us – is this a Conservation Easement?

Mr. Mileski answered yes it is a Conservation Easement.

Chairman Harbinson stated that when this came to us a couple of months back, there was some confusion as to whether the Conservation Easement had been placed on the land records.
Mr. Mileski said that he did check it and it has been deeded over.

Chairman Harbinson asked the purpose for wanting to modify the existing conservation easement was to build a garage? You have a current garage here (pointed out). We had a resident come here who was concerned about the nature of needing another garage when you had an existing garage and there was tenants above the garage. Last month we did not see the hardship in needing to build a garage and modify the conservation easement.

Mr. Mileski answered I will be turning 80 in a couple of months and I want to retire. How do you retire without having a sufficient income? I figured I would dress up the property – it doesn’t look proper. I want to have it so the driveway would take care of this area here and it would make it more presentable.

Chairman Harbinson asked so you are looking to put in a second driveway so you can rent out part of your house to supplement the income for your retirement?

Mr. Mileski answered yes. My daughter lived there but lives in Torrington now. Chairman Harbinson asked if you would be looking to rent it to her? (No). So you are looking to turn your existing single-family house into basically an in-law situation that is not an in-law?

Mr. Mileski said right.

Chairman Harbinson answered that is not something we would be interested in modifying our conservation easement for. That is what we toned in our letter last month. That is something you have to take up with Planning & Zoning. That is something they normally don’t approve.

Commissioner Dyer asked if this was zoned for single-family?

Chairman Harbinson said that normally you could have an in-law if you state the hardship and that it is a family member going to be residing there. But if this is something where you want to generate an income off of your house by renting it out it would be a secondary increase.

Mr. Mileski stated that if the town would give me back the two lots I will forget it. But they took it illegally and now I am suffering.

Chairman Harbinson stated that is something you would have to take up with P&Z – about what the nature of what you want to do with your house. We did write a letter last month from our last meeting that you could refer to.
Commissioner Welsh stated that by removing the buffer it kind of defeats the purpose of why it was set up in the first place.

Mr. Mileski stated that it was set up illegally. It was never supposed to be set up unless I got a building permit which I never did. I could have had this property here sold to Avalon properties for $200,000 more than Sharlock and Welch (sp?) were paying me. Rick Schultz called me and told me, you are a resident of Shelton and we don’t like to have….they were going have 120 units. Do you know how much that would burden the town now?

Chairman Harbinson said there is no sense in talking “what if’s”. What happened has happened. What you want to do is what we are discussing, and what you want to do as far as I understand zoning regulations, and we are not Planning & Zoning, but that is not the kind of use they would be looking to pass. Certainly as far as our perspective on the Conservation Commission, the easement that exists there is to protect the buffer between the open space and the streetscape entering that subdivision. Last month’s letter talked about not modifying that unless there was a hardship.

Mr. Mileski answered that the hardship is that I want to retire, and I want to dress up the property. How do you dress it up and not do it right?

Chairman Harbinson stated I don’t think that qualifies as a hardship under P&Z’s purview; but you would have to take it up with them. Thank you for coming and if you have any further questions on our commentary you are welcome to contact us.

Mr. Mileski said thank you very much.

**Aspen Ridge – Commerce Drive/Bridgeport Avenue**

Chairman Harbinson stated that it was put on the agenda because I want to keep it in front of our face. Inland Wetlands still has not reviewed the subdivision that P&Z approved. I/W has only looked at the conceptual. They have not given any approvals on the Aspen Ridge development.

**Upper Canal Street Master Plan**

Chairman Harbinson reported that he read in their minutes that they received the application October 24 and they scheduled a public hearing. We did a field walk out there. Have there been any drawings transmitted to us yet?

Agent Gallagher answered no.
Commissioner Lauriat asked if the comments the Commission made regarding the name Canal Street since the canals have all but disappeared, were forwarded.

Chairman Harbinson stated that all the comments were communicated to P&Z and the Downtown sub-committee. As of yet I have not seen the final plans and would imagine that it would probably be close to what we saw as conceptual.

Commissioner Lauriat commented that the new condos being built at Bridge St. really looks nice when you come across the bridge.

*Any Pending*

None.

**Communications**

Chairman Harbinson reported on the following communications:

*Clear-cutting parcels – tree cutting ordinance*

It was sent to the Board of Aldermen in September. As of yet I haven’t heard if they have scheduled a public hearing.

*Press conference regarding the referendum*

This will be on the November ballot regarding purchasing the development rights on the homestead acreage at the Jones Farm. We had done emails back and forth to try and schedule a press conference on Friday so it would make the weekly papers in advance of their printing. Hank and I were there plus we had the Shelton Weekly, Huntington Herald, CT Post and New Haven Register. The press coverage was not that great and hopefully there would be another one in the Post.

**Conservation Agent Report**

Conservation Agent Teresa Gallagher reported as follows:

*220 Soundview Avenue*

I got a call from John Cook a couple of weeks ago because he had received a complaint about some trees that were cut in a conservation easement and wetlands buffer area. About 12 trees were cut and I will show it on the map. These are two separate issues; wetlands will deal with the trees cut in the wetland area.

Wayne Fortin, 220 Soundview Ave, appeared before the Commission
Chairman Harbinson said that he thought the conservation easement was done to potentially allow access to open space behind the parcel.

Mr. Fortin said I didn’t realize how close the conservation land was to my driveway. I did remove trees from the area that Teresa Gallagher mentioned. The reason for removal is that 3 of the trees were dead and one was hit by lightning. There were some that were leaning in the direction of the garage. One tree did fall and I do have a 2-year old son that plays out there and I did this solely for protection. I have full intentions of replacing them. I have planted 25 more trees, which are pear, plum, crab apples, and cherry.

Agent Gallagher said that they are ornamental trees and is not the criteria for replacement.

Mr. Fortin said I have full intention of replacing these trees with whatever you would like.

Commissioner Tate asked why Mr. Fortin did not know it was an easement? This is an important issue for us.

Mr. Fortin responded that the one sign was on the backside of the tree and I did not see it.

Chairman Harbinson said that the signs are usually on the backside of the trees so they are not so obtrusive.

Agent Gallagher said this Commission needs to decide if you want to pursue enforcement action. If you do it has to be referred to the Board of Aldermen.

Commissioner Tate stated that if you felt there was a tree that created a safety hazard to your property the wise procedure is to call Agent Gallagher. We are reasonable people here and would consider the request. Also, what we have found in the past, just for your information, is that these areas that get cleared out, especially along the perimeter of open space and areas adjacent to driveways become back-up parking areas. Not that you would do that, but, they seem to develop into that use over time. That becomes a problem because once cars are parked there and people get used to it. We are residents too and we are not going tell our neighbors not to do things that they shouldn’t do. It’s always easier from the outset for everyone to know what we are trying to do and let’s follow the game plan. I would tell you to try to put back the same species you took out. If the species were a weak species, I would not recommend you put that type back. Mr. Fortin said most were ash trees. Commissioner Tate said that I would not recommend you put those back and Agent Gallagher could give you recommendations. I think we may want to wait to see what wetlands
does. My experience in the past planting recommendations from them is not what I would recommend. I think we should monitor the situation and we would be looking for some native tree planting.

Mr. Fortin said that he planted 25 trees that are 12-15’. I did not realize how close my driveway was to the conservation easement. It is about 5’.

Chairman Harbinson stated that to be clear, the conservation easement is your property but with the conservation easement on it.

Mr. Fortin said that he was told that the wetlands and conservation easement was on the other side of the stone wall. Mr. Fortin said that he is more than willing to do what the Conservation Commission wishes.

Agent Gallagher asked about the enforcement issue.

Commissioner Tate said that if Mr. Fortin did not come to the meeting, ignored the situation and didn’t have a viable reason for taking the trees down then we should take the next step but Mr. Fortin is making an honest attempt to correct maybe an error in judgment or miscommunication, so I think we should be reasonable about it and that Agent Gallagher should work with him and see what wetlands will do about it.

There was discussion regarding the planting time and it was decided that the planting should be in the spring since it is probably too late for this season. It was also discussed regarding the size and number of trees. The Commissioners and Mr. Fortin discussed the parcel and the surrounding areas.

Going back to the Conservation Agent’s report:

**Ecklund Garden**

I assessed the growing conditions and began reviewing the proposed plantings, based on those conditions (some plants would not have done well). Also identified an invasive species Black Swallow Wort (aka Dog Strangle Vine) – listed as a “Their Coming” invasive species. This vine has really spread.

**Mill Street Cleanup**

I joined neighbors of the Mill Street area in picking up trash along the road, Gristmill Open Space and the Far Mill River. We also repaired the kiosk for Gristmill Trail. We filled 30-50 garbage bags. Alderman Anglace facilitated garbage pickup of the bags the next week.
City of Shelton, Conservation Commission  
Minutes for Regular Meeting of Wednesday November 1, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.  
Minutes should be considered a draft version until approved by CC at their next meeting.

**Boat Trip on the Housatonic**
Alderman Anglace has proposed a boat trip up the Housatonic starting in Milford for the purpose of videotaping the river frontage. Cyndee Burke is coordinating.

**Open Space Ordinance**
Just got to the Mayor this week to be signed. Was held up with BOA because they lost their clerk.

**Open Space Trust Account**
Balance as of Sept. 30 was $199,184. (Working with Accounting Department to obtain missing account activity from several months in 2006). Chairman Harbinson said this amount doesn’t make sense. There was the expenditure for the Wasko property, Pagliaro property, plus the input from the annual budget would bring it to a far different number – much less. The last time we got a report was from May and this is the one from October. The tracking of the fee-in-lieu of also needs to be done.

**Project Safe Trails**
   i. Signs – Most are up at Shelton Lakes Greenway. One on Sycamore Drive was replaced. Vandal-prone signs I placed about 10 feet high. There is a hold-up on these locations:
   ii. Hope Lake (Nell’s Rock Reservoir) dam: There is no tree for the sign.
   iii. Hope Lake Kiosk: In need of repair – the plexi-glass is scratched and painted on.
   iv. Turkey Trot Kiosk: In need of repair – (leaks).
   v. Location #7, Power lines north of Buddington – no tree. I place an alternative sign off of Doe Place just before the power lines, which is a major entrance point for ATVs.
   vi. Mapping – still working with Regis on draft.
      a. **Tape 1, Side B**
   vii. Gates: Dean placed boulders at the end of Sycamore to block ATVs. Gate quotes are with the Trails Committee for them to come up with more specific design specifications because the quotes varied significantly (alternatively, can we just accept the lowest quote and get this going?)

**Independence Drive**
Received complaint from resident about piles of dirt along road in Open Space. Per John Cook & Rick Schultz, the Open Space is private (BOA refused to accept due to contamination). Further, to the best of their knowledge, there is nothing that specifies what can and cannot be done in this private open space because P&Z approved as Open Space but BOA rejected acquisition. Fill is stockpiles for Mountain Laurel Ridge subdivision (Spinelli).
viii. (see pages 5-7)

129 Lane Street Open Space Encroachment

Scenic Lane Estates, Open Space #125: The Commission needs to decide whether to pursue enforcement action for the mowing, cutting trees, and dumping woodchips on Open Space. Homeowner Julian Martinez would like property surveyed and is in favor of fence and/or planting to delineate property line.

The Commissioners thought that when this subdivision was proposed they wanted a delineation of some kind and that request was ignored.

Commissioner Dyer said that Tracey Lewis did the initial surveying and I asked if he would give us a quote to the cost of going back to put the pins in.

Commissioner Tate said that the pinning is part of the approval conditions and that P&Z should see that it is done. Rick Schultz needs to be shown that it is clearly a problem for us when they do not follow through on their approval items. There also was discussion regarding a monument that Tracey Lewis said (and there is a letter to that fact) was put on the property and Agent Gallagher cannot locate it. They need to go out there and show us where it is before the bond is released. We need readily visible markers. Because it is not visible it creates problems for this Commission when homeowners are not aware of where the open space starts.

Agent Gallagher will draft a specific letter to Planning & Zoning spelling out our position and this is what we want.

Vistas at White Hills Restoration of Open Space

The trailer and access road will remain until Toll Brothers is done with the subdivision. Verification of the approval conditions needs to be done before continued discussion of the restoration of the open space. It was also pointed out that it is not City open space until it is deeded over. There was lengthy discussion and it was conjectured that it would be done when the development is complete.

When the open space is deeded to us Commissioner Lauriat said he would like to have the gravel removed, topsoil added to support some type of growth. If there has to be a parking lot it should be a grassy parking lot.

Access Parking: There is a memo from BOA in which they requested Toll Bros to include a parking area for residents to access French’s Hill. If the Commission decides it does not want parking, then the matter should probably be cleared with BOA first. Toll Brothers asked us if we wanted the parking area to stay. If there has to be a parking lot it should be a grassy parking lot. Next
meeting the Commissioners will discuss the parking lot area after Commissioner Lauriat has a chance to sketch out how he feels the area should look like in the end.

Commissioner Lauriat reported that Toll Bros. are getting upset because they hired people to come in and build the walls and they have found people are coming and stealing the stones. Also, Mr. Wabuda is upset because Toll Bros. is apparently destroying stonewalls on the property and he thought they were going to be retained.

Chairman Harbinson asked Commissioner Lauriat about the stone walls Joe Wabuda was concerned about - were they ones that were going to be in the City open space or the walls that got reoriented between lots? Commissioner Lauriat said that from what Joe Wabuda said to Phillip Jones, it sounded like the walls went away; they weren’t relocated. They were the walls that were involved in the various lots when they built the houses. Where a wall was not on the property line it left.

Chairman Harbinson said that is something we would have been able to control or have a say over.

Commissioner Lauriat agreed and said I only brought it up because we did make a pitch, if you remember, in writing, to preserve the pent ways.

Chairman Harbinson said I think those are still preserved, to the degree that they could be. It goes to a certain point and then it ends because of the lot lines and property lines not having the open space make a connection around. In light of what we discussed with Lane Street and what this gentleman from Soundview Ave. talked about and past history of Toll Bros. not being all that accurate in doing their survey on Independence Dr., that maybe Teresa should go out there and do a check that the open space markers that are supposed to be visible on those lots are actually there.

Commissioner Dyer asked if it isn’t our open space yet then they aren’t going to have a marker. At the Huntington Woods development we couldn’t do anything.

Chairman Harbinson said that we could get the information that there are open space markers not readably visible and there are lots being sold and people living there for at least 6 months now. If we have issues we should bring that to Planning & Zoning at the same time we are talking about the same concept with other properties. It just adds more weight to our argument of our concern.

Commissioner Dyer said that in regard to the question if there is a pent way between the property, the homeowner, and French’s Farm. I did go up and fight
my way through the briars. There is a stone wall between the property and a row of pine trees. You could actually walk between the stone wall and the pine trees. There is only one stone wall and one row of trees.

**Open Space Marking/Pinning**

Standard language on approval conditions could be clarified. “Permanent, readily visible markers” is open to interpretation. In my opinion, regular survey pins are permanent, but not readily visible. Conservation could propose new verbage.

The Commissioners discussed signage and pining in subdivisions extensively.

Commissioner Tate said specifically he would like to see the rebar in the ground with a cap and if available, that you have a visual marker sign on the trees (eye level), facing the objectionable side.

Agent Gallagher proposed purchase of Permamark Survey Markers. This seems to be a major brand that is reasonably priced (less than $0.40 each, while another major brand is $1.60 each). Largest size available is for ¾ inch rebar. Green is not available – only yellow, orange or red. I suggest yellow. One vendor (surv-kap.com) allows up to 15 letters/spaces per line, two lines. “City of Shelton” could be the upper line and “Open Space” could be the lower line for one marker and “Cons. Easement” for a second marker. Price at Surv-Kap is $71.80 for 200 caps. If we order two version that’s $143.60 total.

**Commissioner Tate MOVED to approve the purchase the 200 Conservation Easement caps in the amount of $143.60. This would come from the Signs and Plaque account # 001-1300-414.40-45. SECONDED by Commissioner Lauriat. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor, MOTION PASSED.**

**City Composting System**

An update on activities near Elizabeth Shelton School. The compost site is for leaf mulch only and is open October and November. We should find out if anyone can take the compost.

**Far Mill River**

Better results for macro invertebrate sampling this fall than in the spring. See example of report for Ten Mile River that I’d like to persuade HVA to do for us.

Chairman Harbinson noted that Agent Teresa Gallagher was named volunteer of the year from the Housatonic Valley Authority.
Communications (cont’d)
Chairman Harbinson continued reporting on the following communication items:

Budget report from Finance
We have a $47,000 budget YTD of which we have used $2500. If there are things needed for the bridge construction we should be able to ask the Board of A&T to shift money from one line item to another to accomplish that.

Commissioner Tate mentioned that there will be a request for quote coming up in the new year.

Possible new Conservation Commissioner
We welcome Carol Jacobsen who has expressed a desire to become a Conservation Commission member. She submitted her resume to Chairman Harbinson.

Ms. Jacobsen said she appreciated being able to sit in on the meetings. She said she has been a 20+ year resident of Shelton and has watched the town grow. I have been interested in the town as a whole and have attended many public meetings and would like to become more active. For skills, my educational background is engineering. Even though it is not civil engineering I do have experience in reading maps, site surveys, etc. I am a stay at home mom but we have been doing some home renovation projects. I am very interested in historic buildings as well as the trails. I am more than willing to do site walks and very interested in preserving the historic gems in Shelton.

Commissioner Tate asked what political affiliation Ms. Jacobsen is and she said she is a registered Republican. It was noted that the Commission has to have a mix of the political parties according to the City charter.

This Commission would make recommendation to the Mayor and then the Mayor would make the appointment.

Fee in lieu of
A copy of a check for $15,000 to the Open Space Trust Acct. for fee-in-lieu of for Jeffrey Estates, Mohegan Rd. I think it was accounted for in the latest Open Space Trust Acct. report.

Miscellaneous
There is an invoice from LP Consultants regarding engineering services for the bridge. Commissioner Dyer has told Agent Gallagher to hold off paying this until there is a final inspection.
We were courtesy copied regarding the Splash car wash on Bridgeport Ave. They had started to cut trees down along Bridgeport Ave. and put a temporary sign. All of which is in the State right-of-way. P&Z does not endorse the removal of the vegetation in that area and asking them to plant additional trees to strengthen the buffer on the southwest corner.

There is a ZBA item that may or may not relate to us. It is a request at 103 The Maples to reduce the setbacks on the side yards from 10’ to 3’ and the rear property line from 30’ to ½’. This is for a second story addition. Chairman Harbinson asked Agent Gallagher to research this to see if it is near any open space.

Commissioner Lauriat brought up a concern regarding the homes down by “Who Ville”. He said he wondered if the electricity they have is metered and where does the stuff go when the toilet is flushed. There doesn’t seem to be room for a septic system. The other Commissioners suggested asking Valley Health Dept.

**Tape 2, Side A**

Ekclund Gardens – copy of the letter sent to the Mayor regarding the Girl Scout project.

**Zoning regulations PDD changes**

Email from Agent Gallagher regarding P&Z and the revision of the PDD regulations. One item regarding that is adding open space to the PDD as a component of approval. They had been talking about a 10% dedication and Agent Gallagher thought 15% might be more in line with the other goals stated in the Plan of Development & Conservation. There may be a state regulation stating that 10% is the maximum. P&Z should confirm it and then take it off the to-do list if the 10% is the maximum. Agent Gallagher was directed to contact Rick Schultz and suggest having Corporation Counsel look to see if the increase to 15% is allowable.

**Publications**

EPA Local Landscape newsletter
Habitat from CACIWC newsletter
CT Wildlife – published by DEP

**Consolidated DEP Grant**

Copy of memo from Sandy Nesteriak regarding the consolidated grant of $75,421 received October 18. Agent Gallagher said that Sandy said to convey to everyone that very good records should be kept and that everyone is aware of the nuances and the requirements for the consolidated grant and that we meet everything. Any work done by Dean Cawthra or any services that are done that we keep good record; especially the in-kind services.
Trails Committee Report
Commissioner Dyer reported as follows:

**Bridge at Silent Waters Dam**
The third pedestrian bridge is completed. They are waiting to deliver it. The foundation work is out for bid and is due in November 9. They are so over-designed that it may cost more for the foundation than the bridge.

The fence guy is supposed to go out and install one fence post for us to look at.

The issue is whether or not we can get the foundations done before its too cold. Dean and I went out and looked at the idea of bringing in a truck from both directions and we both concur that we shouldn’t do that. The cement truck should come in from one side with a pump that goes over to the other side rather than trying to get another truck to come over to the other side.

**Boardwalk at Lane Street - Leaf Grant**
At 11 AM Saturday morning we are starting the boardwalk. Wetlands Commission approved the pressure treated wood. We also will be working on the project November 11 and November 18. Volunteers would be welcome.

**Trails Maintenance**
Tracey Lewis is going to do a survey at the Dikofsky property. Mr. Dikofsky has offered to give a piece of property where the Rec path would be proposed to traverse. He is proposing to give it to the City. It would be noted that is not his one free division of the property and if subdivided this would go towards open space.

**Wetland Permit – Huntington Woods**
We are waiting for Jim Swift who is preparing it to present it to the Wetlands Commission.

**Guided Hikes**
We discussed doing a hike but right now we are too busy with the boardwalk construction. It was suggested to do one in the middle of the winter.

**Funding for the Rec Path**
We can only do so much with volunteers and grants. We would like to propose that there is a line item in the City budget or in the Conservation Commission’s budget for the Rec Path, as a capital improvement.
Chairman Harbinson noted that there is a line item for land improvements. It would be appropriate to have some backup information from the Trails Committee as to how much it would be estimated that would be needed within a fiscal year. Then it could be a budget request for the next year. In this line item we currently have $8000 and have not used anything from it.

**Plan of Conservation and Development**

*Open Space set-aside of 15%*
We discussed this earlier regarding the possibility that it may not be allowable and Agent Gallagher will talk with Rick Schultz.

*Ensure public access to Housatonic River (CRRA Plan from 2001)*
This is going to become an important component in the Open Space Plan about a year from now.

**Scenic Resource Inventory**
Agent Gallagher put together an article for Shelton Life which did mention in terms of wanting public involvement to see what the public felt was a valuable scenic resource. Chairman Harbinson said he also did make a page on pages of the Conservation's google groups service asking for public input.

**Quality of Life – Executive Session**
None

**Comments By Members**
Commissioner Tate informed the members that the carriage shed for the Historical Society now has a building permit. We are going to start the foundation this weekend. There will be on-going work parties for the construction and they are also looking for volunteers. Any volunteer would be recognized in the building permanently. We were looking for wall stone and found that O&G has some that works well and we may have to purchase it.

Agent Gallagher showed the Commissioners her letterbox that the Girl Scouts have around town. There are boxes hidden out in the woods and you get clues off of the internet. When you find the box you open it and would find a stamp (usually a hand-carved unique stamp) and a journal. You would stamp your journal and stamp their journal with your stamp. Then you write notes about your experience. You can read what has already been entered. The Girl Scouts can earn a CT Trails patch for this activity.

Commissioner Welsh reported that the Land Trust hosted a hike on part of Land Trust property/State property/City Open Space by Indian Well. We hike by a
brook called White Hills Brook. We found an old chimney in the woods and found that it has been quite the party spot. It was a very beautiful area and is a nice hiking area. I will email the pictures. Commissioner Welsh pointed out the trail to the Commissioners.

Chairman Harbinson said he was reminiscing with his dad about his days on the Conservation Commission with Harriet Wilber. He went downstairs to his old office and found all his records. It was quite interesting to see the plan of development back in 1969. At that time they also mentioned acquiring open space. It also mentioned a large property that the city had acquired for back taxes on Rocky Rest Ave. It was 40 acres and was going to be highlighted as a recreational area for Shelton. Commissioner Lauriat said it might have been the Phil Evans area. You might have camped at that spot. That probably is the back side of the United Methodist Homes.

Tape 2, Side B

Adjournment

Commissioner Lauriat MOVED to adjourn. SECONDED by Commissioner Dyer. All were in favor, MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:21 P.M.

Next Regular Scheduled Meeting: December 6, 2006
Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Conservation Commission
2 tapes are on file in the City/Clerk’s office