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Call to Order
Present: Tom Harbinson, Chairman
Bill Dyer, Vice-Chairman
Jim Tate, Commissioner
Ed McCreery, Commissioner
Joe Welsh, Commissioner
Sheryl Dutkanicz, Commissioner
Jim Goodman, 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
Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2010 Regular meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. 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 the contract has been signed by the contractor and the Mayor but not by Tom Welch (City Attorney). They discovered that the certificate of insurance that was submitted with the bid had expired. This little snafu costs us a week in work time. It was supposed to have been dropped off here Monday or Tuesday and then once Tom Welch signs off on it we are good to go.
We have agreed that we are going to do 2A (from the corner of Nells Rock Rd and Route 108 up to Oak Valley Rd) as the first effort. Ideally we’ll get the grant before we need to get to the area from the end of the meadow up to Wesley Dr. Agent Gallagher emailed the commissioners information regarding the resolution that will be on the November BOA meeting.

E. Trails Committee Report
Vice-Chairman Dyer and Trails Committee member Terry Gallagher reported that the Trails Committee would have a guided hike on Sunday, November 28th at Birchbank.
The Volunteer Appreciation Day will be done in April.
Stakes were put in the ground for 6 granite pillars and unknown person(s) pulled out 2 of the stakes. Commissioner Tate said that James Tyler is digging holes for us. Terry Gallagher has contacted the utility companies so that it taken care of before the rest of the holes can be dug. The City Engineer does not want us putting a post on the corner of Lane Street because of concern that it would be a traffic hazard. After talking with Engineering they said that John Anglace and the Mayor does not want a post on the corner of Lane Street for some unknown reason. We will figure out something else and concentrate on it in the spring.
There will be 2 posts installed at Lane Street, 2 at Constitution Blvd/Route 108, 1 at Turkey Trot. Rimas (Assistant City Engineer) has asked me to put them back so they are out of the city right-of-way, so that cars don’t run into them or get in the way of the snowplow. I am leaving him a sketch so he can go and look himself.
Vice-Chairman Dyer commented that he was surprised they don’t want a pillar at the corner of Lane Street since it would be between two signs that are already there.
Terry Gallagher said that once the intersections of the Rec path are completed in the spring we are going to put the other granite bollards out along with the removable bollards. At that time we will revisit the placement of the granite pillar.
We just want to get the public in there and using it.
Vice-Chairman Dyer said that there was a car that drove all the way to the Pine Lake bridge from Meadow Street on the Rec path.
Terry Gallagher reported that we would have a work party this Saturday at the barn to fix up the tool storage area. There will be another work party scheduled for November 13th at Boehm Pond trail.
Last month we had a public hike at Tahmore that was very successful plus some public work parties. Also, two Eagle Scouts do the scout project at Eklund Gardens.
The contractor who was screening the material at the white house has demobilized his equipment today.
Vice-Chairman Dyer and Terry Gallagher showed the most recent drawing of the dog park area and discussed the parking situation plus the trees that are marked. They also talked about the desire to have the white garage removed by the City.
Vice-Chairman Dyer stated that the Trails Committee received a chainsaw from a resident and they had to take it to Martinka for repairs.
**Commissioner McCreery MOVED to approve the reimbursement of $89.09 to Terry Gallagher for the repair of a donated chainsaw done by Martinka. SECONDED by Commissioner Goodman. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.**

**Commissioner McCreery MOVED to approve the invoice from Huntington Hardware in the amount of $140.00 for paint expenses for the barn. SECONDED by Commissioner Goodman. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.**

Terry Gallagher said that there would be some invoices coming in for the next meeting for items needed for vandalism repairs. We have had quite a few vandalism incidents in the past few months.
The topic of the removable bollards came up and Commissioner Tate explained that he did an investigation around the state of what is the most common practice. The Trails Committee, Parks & Rec or any other City entity would like to be able to pull up the bollard or remove it somehow to make it passable and to put it back in place. The least expensive or the most practical way to do that is to have a pipe bollard situation. Commissioner Tate explained how it works.
Commissioner McCreery suggested ordering a couple to try out. Commissioner Tate volunteered to take care of it.
**Commissioner McCreery MOVED to authorize Commissioner Tate to get a purchase order for the purchase and installation of 2 removable bollards at a cost not to exceed $1000. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.**
F. Dog Park – status update
Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that the 4’ high fence has been installed. There are gaps under the fence in various locations. What needs to be done now is to put earth around them so that the dogs would not be able to scoot underneath. Agent Gallagher said that at the Trumbull dog park they used blocks to shore up the gap.
Vice-Chairman Dyer also added that they have the signs and poop bags. The dog park is about an acre, which seems to be more than adequate.
Chairman Harbinson suggested working with Parks & Rec to make sure they are aware of our needs in relation to the Rec Path.
Commissioner Tate said we need to focus on making sure someone from this Commission coordinate with the person in charge from Parks & Rec to make sure the plan is followed. He said he would talk to Ron Herrick to make sure the plan is followed in the direction the Commission desires in relation to the parking, access to the barn, the fence, trees, etc. He expressed his frustration with the process of the dog park planning and the fact that there was supposed to be a meeting to iron out the details and that never happened. He sketched a plan to try and organize some thoughts and it appears it is not being adhered to. It was my understanding that a key player in this project, Dean, will be out of work for a month. If there are issues that come up we have go and voice that to the powers that be. We should go there and say what we want and how we want it to be done and we will help you any way we can.
There was a lengthy discussion of what the issues really are.
Commissioner Tate volunteered to monitor the construction of the dog park as it relates to the Commission’s interests with Parks & Rec department.

G. Executive Session
Chairman Harbinson MOVED at 7:50 P.M. to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing security issues on our open space. SECONDED by Commissioner McCreery. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

At 8:06 Commissioner McCreery MOVED to return to Regular Session. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Commissioner McCreery MOVED to authorize Agent Gallagher to expend up to $1500 to obtain security equipment for the areas discussed in Executive Session for the preservation and protection of the trails system from vandalism. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.
H. Community Garden Status
Chairman Harbinson asked Agent Gallagher if the Community Garden Committee is still going to be a sub-committee of the Conservation Commission. She said the last she heard it was.

I. Tree Replacement/Maintenance account proposal
Commissioner Tate sent an email to the Commissioners suggesting establishing a fund to maintain the trees on open space and to do some planting of trees on open space where appropriate.

Tape 1, Side B

Commissioner Tate explained about his idea and gave an example that the trees we already have in the city may or may not be in open space but on the city’s property would fall under the tree warden’s purview. There are some properties, for example, that need tree plantings for visual screening to give the open space more value, in terms of long-term use of the property. I think the City has some funds available for that type of thing. I don’t think there is a group that really administers the money. What I am suggesting, that through the Mayor, if the Conservation Commission is willing, we could act as an administrator to review proposals conceivably from different agencies that might want to plant. For example, it might be just one pine tree, or a series of trees, or tree replacement from storm damage or accidental damage. Then we would work closely with the tree warden and we could offer recommendations. Is the Commission interested?
Chairman Harbinson asked if this would be an annual budget amount or would there be a fund that is established? Commissioner Tate answered that given the way things are today that there would not be an annual allocation given. I think it would be on an as-needed basis with an initial funding amount of about $15,000. Chairman Harbinson expressed his thought that this would be a great thing to pursue and this would be an appropriate agency since we know the open space and are more in tune with some of the appropriate species to be planted. Commissioner Tate said he thinks we have some positive history with the plantings that was done at Southbank and at the Farmers Market. Chairman Harbinson said he recalls that the City received a Charter Oak and it was given to Terry Jones to put on his property until an appropriate location was fund. We might want to touch base with Terry. The Commissioners gave their consent to pursue this endeavor regarding the tree plantings/replacement account management.

J. Open Space Trust Account
No change.
City of Shelton, Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Regular Meeting on Wednesday November 3, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.
Minutes should be considered a draft version until approved by CC at their next meeting.

K. Budget Report
Agent Gallagher will have the report emailed to the Commissioners.

L. Open Space set-aside: Status of increase to 15% in subdivision regulations
Chairman Harbinson stated that Planning & Zoning Commission was supposed to set up a joint meeting to review the subdivision application regulations. Agent Gallagher and Chairman Harbinson discussed this and it just needs to be scheduled.

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

1. Old Applications/Monitor/Follow-up
   i. Cranberry Estates, Armstrong Road. Open space conveyance, walking trail location and tree replacement program.
   Agent Gallagher said she did a walk at this location. The owners have done the plantings and she explained what was done and about the invasive species that have cropped up. She asked for a mix of native wildflowers and grass to be put in there.
   Chairman Harbinson talked about this application in relation to the open space dedication that was going to be conveyed to the City as part of the P&Z approval. The BOA said they didn’t want it. It will now be conveyed to a community open space. There will be no public open space dedication. The community open space dedication does have a pedestrian access easement.
   Chairman Harbinson asked if the community open space qualifies for a fee in lieu of. Agent Gallagher will look into it.

2. New Applications
None

N. Communications
- CACIWC monthly newsletter
- Memo regarding Golden Heights subdivision on Golden Hill Lane from Rick Schultz. They are accepting the road. There is no open space involved.
- CT DEP permit recognition for the City discharge on the sewer treatment plant. No comment needed from Conservation.
- Brochure for encouragement for Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions to publicize to the public that they consider using organic land care products.
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- CACIWC membership renewal request. Agent Gallagher will fill out the renewal form.
- CACIWC annual meeting on November 13th in Wallingford. Agent Gallagher will attend is giving a presentation on greenways and trails.

O. Comments By Members
Commissioner Welsh said that last month he went to the invasive plant symposium at UCONN. There was a professor who did research into the garlic mustard plant and figured out that if you do nothing to the plant, it depletes everything that feeds it in the soil, and ends up dying out. There was also discussion on barberry as it relates to the tick population. He said it was a very interesting event.
Vice-Chairman Dyer said he sent an email out regarding an Indian village that was at the dog park site. He showed a picture of a rock that was dug out and used for corn grinding. He learned of this from a Highways & Bridges employee who also said that legend has it that there was an Indian burial ground in the area.
Commissioner Dutkanicz talked about different Indian burial techniques and structures.
The Commissioners talked about different Indian sites they know about.
Commissioner Dutkanicz mentioned that she met Mrs. Dorso. She went to school with two of her boys. Their father was in the Shelton history books about his Indian heritage. She asked Mrs. Dorso what kind of American Indian blood was in her husband, and she said none. He was Italian, and is from Derby. He just had a big fascination for the American Indians.
Agent Gallagher stated that the ATV activity at Birchbank has decreased. I haven’t seen any recent activity. She mentioned some people who had received letters and one who got a ticket because of their activity. She also is looking at extending the Birchbank trail and talked about the area.

P. Adjournment
The next regular meeting is Wednesday, December 1, 2010.

Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to adjourn. SECONDED by Commissioner Goodman. All were in favor; MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Conservation Commission