Call to Order

A. Call to Order/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.
B. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Goodman MOVED to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2012 Regular meeting. SECONDED Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

C. Public Portion (items not on agenda)

None

D. Shelton Lakes Recreation Path, upgrade to handicapped-accessible standards. Status.

1. Rec Path Grand Opening, October 6

Vice-Chairman Dyer said that since we met last we had the grand unveiling of the Rec Path. The event went well.

The only thing left on the Rec Path is the removable bollards. The purchase order has been submitted and we are waiting to hear back from Orange Fence. We would like to get them installed by the winter.

The storm did do some damage to some of the fence rails and we will be repairing them. Most of the damage done was a result of tree limbs coming down.

Terry Gallagher reported that they did have 4 work parties to get the Rec Path cleared. Plus there have been a couple of additional times the Trails Committee members have gone out to clear the debris. There is a work party scheduled for Saturday at the path at Route 108 to work at the Turkey Trot.

Vice-Chairman Dyer said that they will need rails for the fences that were damaged. Commissioner Tate said that he thinks the City has an open contract with M&M Fence. Check with Parks & Rec.

Terry Gallagher said that the chain-link fence at Pine Lake was damaged and we would need M&M Fence to come out to repair that. He also mentioned more areas that had rails that were damaged. It was suggested that perhaps Parks & Rec could work on that for the winter. There are several areas that have brush piled up and those could get chipped by Parks & Rec during the winter.

Vice-Chairman Dyer mentioned that they could use millings at the new open space at Mohegan to create a parking area.

E. Trails Committee Report – Bill Dyer

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that they had to cancel the Tahmore hike that was scheduled for last Saturday.

The Trails Committee would like to purchase a Stihl 180 CD 16” chain saw. We got 3 quotes; 2 @ $199.95 and 1 @ $199.95 with a $20 credit.
Commissioner Tate asked about safety equipment for the chain saw. They do have it.

Terry Gallagher said that one of their chain saws was damaged when they were doing their last tree clearing. The volunteers brought their own saws and power equipment.

Commissioner Tate stressed the importance of getting the proper safety equipment for the people using the power tools. Vice-Chairman Dyer said that we have plenty of safety equipment.

**Chairman Harbinson MOVED to approve the purchase of a chain saw based upon the lowest quote from Knight’s at $179.95. SECONDED by Commissioner Goodman. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.**

Vice-Chairman Dyer said they also need a chipper. They want the 16hp version. Right now after we clear areas we have to just pile the debris and wait for Parks & Rec to get to it. Parks & Rec does have a chipper but that one is much bigger than we would need. This one we want to purchase is better for chipping vines. They don’t want to use their chipper for the long, thin vines because it wraps around. The one we want is actually a shredder/chipper. The gator can pull it so we can take it to places where the other one can’t get to. We would store it in our red barn.

Terry Gallagher said this shredder/chipper is bigger than what a homeowner would get but smaller than the industrial size that Parks & Rec has.

Vice-Chairman Dyer said he would have to go out and get 3 quotes.

Commissioner Tate suggested giving this to Gene Sullivan and have him go out to bid.

Everyone talked about safety training for the chipper.

Terry Gallagher talked about our booth at Shelton Day. He said it was a good turnout and they gave out lots of maps and talked to a lot of people. We didn’t, however, get very many people signing up to be trails volunteers.

Agent Gallagher said she would give a request to Purchasing to send a check for the booth for next year’s Shelton Day.

Vice-Chairman Dyer said that at a previous meeting the Commission authorized the Trails Committee up to $650 for hats for volunteers. I did get two quotes, one for $648 and the other was $912. We will be getting another quote tomorrow. Since it was already approved we will be getting the hats from Blanchettes @ the $648 price.

Terry Gallagher talked about the hat distribution to the volunteers.

Vice-Chairman Dyer mentioned that the one Boy Scout that is building the bridge at Hope Lake has gone over budget and has requested our help to defer the cost. He asked for $200. The Trails Committee passed a motion to request funds from Conservation to help. So far the cost is around $3000. Pictures of the construction project were passed out and discussed. The Commissioners were amazed at the size of the bridge.
They also talked about the bridge becoming slippery and Agent Gallagher suggested using chicken wire.

**Chairman Harbinson MOVED to approve up to $200 for building supplies to help complete the Eagle Scout project at Hope Lake for Boy Scout Gabriel Brown. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.**

Vice-Chairman Dyer mentioned that there has been an unbelievable number of man-hours the Scouts and family have put into it. Commissioner Tate suggested we make sure that it’s safe and stable at the completion. They all agreed.

**F. Open Space Trust Account - Status**
No report

**G. Budget Status**
No report
Chairman Harbinson requested that we get the Open Space Trust Account and Budget reports for the next meeting.

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

1. **Old Applications/Monitor/Follow-up**
   
   i. **PZC#12-17, 550 River Road “Blue Heron” (also known as Rivers Edge) – Presentation by Country Club of Connecticut LLC for 36-unit condominium proposal**

   Chairman Harbinson reported that the Inland Wetlands Commission gave their approval last week but we don’t know the details of the approval since the minutes are not yet online. Planning & Zoning is still discussing this project.

2. **New Applications**
   
   i. **UI application to CT Siting Council to build an electric substation and related facilities on a 6-acre parcel at #14 Old Stratford Rd adjacent to the Far Mill River**

   Agent Gallagher said that our letter was sent.
I. Communications (sent or received)
   - CACIWC newsletter & there is a conference this Saturday. Agent Gallagher is attending.
   - HVA paddling guide for the Housatonic River.

J. Quality of Life – Executive Session (land acquisition and security issues)
   Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing land acquisition and security issues at 7:50 PM. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

   The Commissioners returned to regular session at 8:45 PM.

   No motions were made in Executive Session.

K. Comments By Members
   Commissioner Welsh reported that he went to the invasive plant seminar. He had a form from the CT Environmental Review Team.
   He said that regarding the dumping in OS15. There is no real signage. Part of the goal of the Land Trust is to educate the people in neighboring properties. Easton has a good example of a sign (2”x2”). It might be something we could look at for open space and land trust.
   The members talked a bit about the need for more open space signage.

L. Adjournment
   Meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

   The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Conservation Commission