City of Shelton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
January 3, 2018

Members Present: Bill Dyer, Joe Welsh, Jim Tate, Sheri Dutkanicz, Ed McCreery (arrived 7:12 pm). Absent: Tom Harbinson

Also present: Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager;

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Vice Chairman Bill Dyer.

1. Meeting Minutes: Sheri Dutkanicz made a motion to approve the December 6, 2017 meeting minutes. Seconded by Joe Welsh. All were in favor.

2. Public Portion: Jeff Dow, 296 Huntington Street, said he was interested in joining the Conservation Commission. He used to be in construction and is an electrical engineer. Bill Dyer summarized what the Conservation Commission does.

3. Trails Committee Report. Bill Dyer summarized the Trails Committee meeting held immediately before the Conservation Commission meeting. See the Trails Committee meeting minutes for further detail.

   a The “Pearmain Preserve” project was summarized and maps shared. The City is applying for a DEEP Open Space grant to purchase a portion of #69 Pearmain Road. The property is important watershed land for Means Brook Reservoir, a public drinking water supply. Also, the acquisition would allow the Trails Committee to reroute a hiking trail known as “The Pearmain Path” onto permanently protected open space. Bill Dyer and Teresa Gallagher met with Terry Jones, Bruce Nichols, and Guy Beardsley (all representing abutting property owners). The Jones family is donating nearby land called “Little Knoll” to the Land Trust and is further planning to give permission add a return loop through their property to the Scout camp at the Land Trust’s Nicholdale Farm. See the Trails Committee minutes for maps and further detail.

   Ed McCreery made a motion for the Conservation Commission to submit a letter supporting the project. Sheri Dutkanicz seconded the motion. All were in favor.
4. Communications

a Planning and Zoning Commission, Scenic Road referral for the Lane Street bridge replacement over Means Brook. The Planning Commission submitted a memo to the Board of Alderman supporting the project. Bill Dyer noted there was no mention of the Rec Path, which will be used temporarily as a city street to Wesley Drive. Also, if the temporary roadway was shifted to the north on the abutting open space that would save a stone wall and several large trees. And they could narrow the roadway and it shouldn’t need to be paved. Jim Tate said Conservation should send a letter about the alignment of the path. Bill Dyer said they were also concerned because cars would be on the Rec Path and there did not seem to be any safety provisions for this in the plans. Jim Tate said safety was not the problem of the Conservation Commission and they should stick to the topic of the alignment of the temporary road in order to preserve the natural features. Bill Dyer disagreed and thought safety of the Rec Path was within their purview. Sheri Dutkanicz was also concerned about safety. Joe Welsh wondered if they could install a speed bump. Ed McCreery thought a speed bump might be a good idea. Jim Tate said they should not mention anything about safety in the letter and directed Teresa Gallagher to draft a letter regarding the roadway alignment. Bill Dyer asked to see a draft of the letter before sending it out. Jim Tate said they should all see it before it goes out.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 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.