City of Shelton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
May 2, 2018

Members Present: Tom Harbinson, Sheri Dutkanicz, Joe Welsh, Jim Tate, Allison Menendez.
Absent: Ed McCreery, Bill Dyer. Also present: Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager; Terry Gallagher, Trails Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Chairman Tom Harbinson.

- Meeting Minutes: Sheri Dutkanicz made a motion to approve the April 4, 2018 meeting minutes. Seconded by Allison Menendez. All were in favor.

- Public Portion: No one was present.

- Trails Committee Report. Terry Gallagher summarized the Trails Committee meeting held immediately before the Conservation Commission meeting. See the Trails Committee meeting minutes for further detail.

He noted that the Trails Committee made a motion to recommend that the open space next to 182 Thoreau Drive be surveyed for the purpose of delineating the narrow open space corridor through which the Paugussett Trail passes. Teresa Gallagher added that Conservation previously authorized the purchase of evergreens to be planted within the 20-ft wide corridor to help delineate the trail. She had contacted the abutting neighbor to inform him about the plantings, but he was skeptical about the location of the property boundaries as shown on the GIS map, aerial view. Since the open space corridor is so narrow as it passes between houses and goes along the edge of a yard, it makes sense to have that surveyed. She would like a map drawn showing the existing edge of driveway and the trail. Jim Tate made a motion to authorize hiring a surveyor to delineate the property line for the open space next to 182 Thoreau Drive and prepare a map. Seconded by Joe Welsh. All were in favor.

Joe Welsh said there was a rotting board on the Lane Street boardwalk. Terry Gallagher said he is aware of the issue and it’s on the list to fix. Jim Tate and Tom Harbinson said it’s a safety issue and the City should have someone take care of it.
Terry Gallagher said he would try and get to it. He also noted the boardwalk developed a wave over the winter and he’s not sure why.

- **Booth Hill Estates application IWC #18-2 and PZC #18-05.** DRD Subdivision with 23 lots on 22.7 acres at the corner of Waverly and Booth Hill Roads with 6.1 acres of open space. Conservation previously submitted a letter to the Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands Commissions. Jim Tate asked about the density bonus for DRDs. He does not approve of any bonus density, especially in this location. Teresa Gallagher said the Commission had reviewed and commented on the proposed DRD regulations. Tom Harbinson read the letter the Conservation Commission submitted to Planning and Zoning regarding the proposed DRD regulations. It did not address the density bonus. Jim Tate said that he missed the Conservation Commission meeting when these regulations were reviewed, but he would never have approved of a density bonus in an R-1 zone.

  Jim Tate questioned a viability of reserve septic tanks on the small lots and thought the City should have a professional review the plans and determine if those septic systems are valid. These are small lots next to a drinking water supply. Tom Harbinson asked Joe Welsh what Aquarian does in these situations. Joe Welsh wasn’t sure, but Aquarion did already send a letter expressing concern for the project. Jim Tate and Tom Harbinson asked Teresa Gallagher to obtain quotes for someone to review any impact to the drinking water supply from these proposed septic systems.

- **Comments by members:**
  - Sheri Dutkanicz described her visit to the Woodbury Earthday Festival.
  - Allison Menendez said the Dog Park is very popular and people were coming in from other towns to use it.
  - Jim Tate we should move the trails barn at the Dog Park, and there should be a new barn on the other side of the parking lot with restrooms.

**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.*