City of Shelton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
June 6, 2018

Members Present: Tom Harbinson, Bill Dyer, Ed McCreery (arrived 7:27), Sheri Dutkanicz, Joe Welsh, Jim Tate. Absent: Allison Menendez Also present: Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Chairman Tom Harbinson.

- Meeting Minutes: Sheri Dutkanicz made a motion to approve the May 2, 2018 meeting minutes. Seconded by Jim Tate. All were in favor.

- 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. Trails volunteer Mark Vallaro had collected some leaves from the unusually large chestnut tree that abuts the Lane Street fire access road and will be sending them to someone with the American Chestnut Foundation for analysis to see if it is a pure American Chestnut, or a hybrid. If it is pure, it’s the largest one Mark Vallaro has seen growing in the wild (the tree produced nuts the previous fall). Current plans for converting the Lane Street Fire Access into a temporary road would destroy the tree. This could be avoided with a narrower road that is shifted north.

- 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. Tom Harbinson said the previous P&Z meeting was well-attended and most public speakers were opposed to the proposal. Conservation’s letter was read into the record. However, a commissioner later made a comment to the effect that Conservation had not pursued it for open space, which was incorrect, so a follow-up letter should be submitted to reiterate Conservation’s opposition to the project and its recommendation for the City to purchase all or a portion of the property for open space.
**Huntington Center Special Study Area.** Joe Welsh and Tom Harbinson attended a public informational meeting for the Huntington Center Special Study Area. Jim Tate urged commissioners to submit a public survey form. Teresa Gallagher noted the form was on the main city webpage. Tom Harbinson said that Conservation has always been supportive of pedestrian access in Huntington Center.

**Communications**

a. A letter of resignation was received from Commissioner Joe Welsh, who has taken the position of Manager of Environmental Protection at the Aquarion Water Company, and wishes to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

b. A letter was received from Dawn Kramer asking for more prominent signs along the trails telling people to leash their dogs. There are signs at the trailhead kiosks, but people ignore them. Sheri Dutanicz said she has had a problem with off-leash dogs running up to her family. Teresa Gallagher said the problem isn’t that people don’t know there is a leash law, but that they don’t care. She has asked people to leash their dogs and some argue back and refuse, even when she identifies herself as working for Shelton Conservation. The issue can only be resolved with enforcement. She would recommend prioritizing the Rec Path and Turkey Trot Trail, which are the busier paths, and will forward the letter to the Police and Animal Control.

**Executive Session.** At 7:45 pm, Ed McCreery made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential land acquisitions. Seconded by Sheri Dutkanicz. All were in favor. The commission came out of Executive Session at 7:58 pm. No motions were made.

**Comments by members:**

- Jim Tate said there would be a car show the same weekend at the History Center.
- Teresa Gallagher shared a video clip of a porcupine she encountered while hiking the Appalachian Trail in Salisbury.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 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.