City of Shelton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for May 1, 2019

Members Present: Tom Harbinson, Jim Tate, Sheri Dutkanicz, Ed McCreery (arrived 7:22 pm)
Absent: Bill Dyer

Also present: Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager. Terrance Gallagher, Trails Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Tom Harbinson.

Meeting Minutes: Jim Tate made a motion to approve the April 3, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Sheri Dutkanicz. All were in favor.

(Ed McCreery arrived at 7:22 pm)

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

The annual Wildflower Hike at Birchbank was held, but there were fewer wildflowers than in the past except within the two deer exclosures. Teresa Gallagher noted that twenty years ago the ground was carpeted with blooming Dutchman’s Breeches, but it’s now very sparse and few are blooming. The Trillium are also smaller and most are not blooming. This is due to the deer population. Inside the deer exclosures, the Dutchman’s Breeches and Trillium are much larger and blooming well. It’s sad to see the loss of what was a rare display of spring wildflowers. Tom Harbinson asked about the Deer Committee’s report. Teresa Gallagher said the report had been submitted to the Board of Aldermen, but the Board did not discuss the report as far as she knows.
**Tall Farm Open Space:** Chairman Tom Harbinson reported that John Anglace had spoken to Teresa Gallagher about a land request for a portion of the Tall Farm Open Space (Map 41 Lot 8). This concerns a narrow accessway that leads from the back fields out to Long Hill Avenue between houses #622 and #628. Tom Harbinson told Alderman Anglace that Conservation would not want to give up the strip of land, which could be used to assemble a larger lot to be developed. Also, the strip was retained for a possible future trail connecting the Tall Farm open space to the Long Hill open space across the street. In the past, the City needed formal referrals from Conservation prior to selling any City land. That was changed because some of the properties in question had no conservation relevance.

**Jim Tate made a motion to send a letter opposing the sale of a portion of Tall Farm. Ed McCreery seconded. All were in favor.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 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.*