City of Shelton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for July 10, 2019

Members Present: Tom Harbinson, Bill Dyer, Jim Tate, Ed McCreery  Absent: Sheri Dutkanicz

Also present: Teresa Gallagher, Natural Resource Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm by Tom Harbinson.

Meeting Minutes: Ed McCreery made a motion to approve the June 5, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Jim Tate. All were in favor.

Trails Committee Report. Bill Dyer summarized the Trails Committee meeting that preceded the Conservation Commission meeting. For details, see the Trails Committee meeting minutes.

Aquarion Water Company request for a gas line over the City’s existing conservation easement at Huntington Street near Trap Falls reservoir. Tom Harbinson noted this is located at the Avalon Bay development across the street from Aquarion’s facilities at Trap Falls and that the conservation easement was a neighborhood buffer type of conservation area. The request is to impact an area that is 15’ x 50’.

Staff had requested additional information about the gas line installation from Aquarion, who in turn received the following from Eversource: “The installation of the gas main will impact the conservation area. The area where the gas main is proposed to be installed does have natural trees and shrubbery. During the walk through that was done between Eversource & Aquarion there were some clearings that we saw to minimally impact the natural landscaping. During installation – the trench is usually 3’6”-4’0” deep and 18” wide which equipment normally disturbing 10’ wide due to the stabilizers on the machine. However – with the limited space and the trees more than likely the trucks will be in the roadway and the contractor will need to use a mini excavator which will make less impact. After installation the trench is backfilled to be flush with the ground. If there is a worry of wash out with the dirt we can place down straw/hay and it will naturally break down. Natural trees and shrubs can continue to claim the area where
the main is installed – however we will need access to walk the gas main should there need to be a leak survey completed. Our goal is to create as little impact on your area as possible and will work to make sure relieve you of any concerns.”

Jim Tate made a motion to send a letter to the Board of Aldermen stating that the Conservation Commission has no objections to Aquarion’s proposed gas line crossing the City’s conservation easement near Trap Falls, but would like to see a restoration plan that utilizes native plants. Seconded by Bill Dyer. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 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.