City of Shelton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes for September 4, 2019

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Tom Harbinson.

Meeting Minutes: Bill Dyer made a motion to approve the August 7, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Sheri Dutkanicz. 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.

Boy Scout Korey Barber presented preliminary plans to construct a bridge over Round Hill Brook at the Shelton/Monroe town line for the Paugussett Trail. The bridge will be four feet wide, twenty-four feet long, and have railings on both sides. Tom Harbinson made a motion to endorse Korey Barber’s proposed Eagle Scout bridge over Round Hill Brook. Seconded by Bill Dyer. All were in favor.

2020 Meeting Dates: Tom Harbinson made a motion to schedule the following 2020 dates for the Commission’s regular meetings, all of which are on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in Room 303 at City Hall except the January meeting, which is the second Wednesday due to the New Year holiday: January 8, Feb. 5, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2. Bill Dyer amended the motion to add that the Trails Committee meetings will be held on the same dates and location at 5:30 pm. Sheri Dutkanicz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Applications and Developments:
- Application PZC #19-06 “Daybreak Ridge” 85-97 River Road. DEEP staff confirmed an active Bald Eagle nest on the site. The nest is located on the ridge above where the proposed construction activities would occur, within an area to be
protected by a conservation easement. DEEP recommended that no blasting occur between February 15 and March 15 because the noise could cause eagles to abandon their nest. This information was forwarded to Planning and Zoning by the Natural Resource Manager. Tom saw in the minutes that the Planning and Zoning Administrator Ken Nappi did acknowledge the nest. No further action needs to be taken by Conservation.

**Dikovsky Open Space (Old Town Road):** Tom Harbinson noted that there are several structures on the property, which is now Public Open Space. Teresa Gallagher has taken video and photos which she shared with Commission members. There is some removal work that needs to be done, and there are some family issues with the prior owner. A squatter had been living on the property but has since been removed. Jim Tate asked who is responsible for these buildings now? Which department? Bill Dyer reminded members that when Basil Dikovsky sold the property to the City, he retained life use of the buildings. He passed away, so now the City has full use of the buildings. Some of the buildings are in poor condition or have collapsed. And there are other items such as boats that may be of value.

Jim Tate made a motion to send a letter to the City attorney about the status of the Dikovsky buildings on City Public Open Space and the disposition of the personal property on it. Conservation is interested in notification to the family members and giving them a date by which they remove any personal property and belongings so that the property can be made safe for public use. Seconded by Sheri Dutkanicz. All were in favor.

**Communications:**

- **181 Meadow Street Resubdivision trees (PZC #16-33):** Tom Harbinson said he received a call from developer A. J. Grasso who is working on a property on Meadow Street at Sinsabaugh Heights. Conservation had requested a conservation easement over the stone wall along the street. According to the developer, Tree Warden Dean Cawthra recommended that he take all the trees down that are along the street. There is a very nice hickory tree near the corner of Meadow & Sinsabaugh, and there is a second tree Tom Harbinson took photos of (shared with Commission members). The trees do not seem to affect the sight lines. The developer will do whatever the City wants him to do with regard to the trees, but because the trees are within a conservation easement, he wanted to touch base with the Conservation Commission. Tom Harbinson said he would address that with Dean Cawthra.

- **July 27 ATV incident on Rec Path:** Tom Harbinson said he wrote a letter to the Mayor and the Police Chief regarding the lack of enforcement after a pair of pedestrians were followed and harassed at length by two men on ATVs. Neither of
them have responded. John Anglase said he brought the issue up at the weekly meetings with the Mayor, Corporate Counsel, and Mayor’s Assistant. Tom Harbinson called the Police Chief’s office and received no return phone call. Bill Dyer and Teresa Gallagher also received no responses to their communications with the Police Chief. Tom Harbinson did reach out to one of the officers that he knows at the City, and there is a broader ATV issue in the City. For example, there were ATVs at the Huntington Green doing circles around the officers during the concerts. But he would have expected the courtesy of a return phone call from the Police Chief. In the video, one of the riders claims he is a police officer. So perhaps there are complications and that’s why we are not getting any response. Sheri Dutkanicz said the language being used in the video is very inappropriate. Tom Harbinson he is continuing to pursue the matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 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.