City of Shelton Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes for October 2, 2019

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

**The meeting was called to order** at 7:08 pm by Tom Harbinson.

**Meeting Minutes:**  
*Bill Dyer made a motion to approve the September 4, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Jim Tate. All were in favor.*

**Public Portion:**  
Police Chief Shawn Sequira wished to speak to the Commission about ATVs. He said he wished to explain what he goes through. ATVs are a widespread problem across the state and in Shelton. The department receives many phone calls from residents complaining about ATVs. Police are not allowed to chase or follow ATVs and the people riding them know this and taunt the Police on the streets. Many of the riders are disrespectful and some of the parents are also disrespectful. He is having Sargeant Ptak work on assembling a list of ATV/dirtbike descriptions and homes where these vehicles are coming from so that officers can track down offenders and seize their ATVs. They also implemented a reverse-911 call to remind residents that ATV are not allowed on City property, posted the message on their Facebook Page, and issued a press release to the Shelton Herald.

As for the ATV incident which occurred on the Rec Path in July [a man and his wife were walking on the Rec Path near Wesley Drive when two men on ATVs drove around a bend in the trail very fast. Words were exchanged and one of the pedestrians took a video, after which the men on ATVs reportedly followed and harassed the pedestrians for some time as they continued towards the Dog Park], the responding officer met the caller at the Dog Park, at which time the ATV rider appeared in his car. The video taken by the caller was disturbing, but the ATV rider was polite to the officer and claimed he did not know that riding on trails was not allowed. The officer used his discretion and decided to let the rider go with a verbal warning. He thought the parties involved were fine with this outcome. Chief Sequira said he would not second guess his officers’ decisions because they put their life on the line for their job.
Trails Committee Report. Bill Dyer summarized the Trails Committee meeting that preceded the Conservation Commission meeting. For details, see the Trails Committee meeting minutes.

Communications:

- The Connecticut DOT sent a letter to the Mayor responding to comments about the Indian Hole bridge. Most comments regarding the bridgework and guide rail were rejected. A crew of DOT staff met onsite with Teresa Gallagher and with Joe Maler, DEEP Park Manager, and came up with some ideas to help keep the Paugussett Trail open during construction and to provide an alternate means to walk between the beach and falls areas at the park so that fewer people are walking on the roadway and do not need to climb over the high guide rail.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 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.