

City of Shelton, Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Regular Meeting on Wednesday April 7, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.
Minutes should be considered a draft version until approved by CC at their next meeting.

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Call to Order

Present: Tom Harbinson, Chairman
Bill Dyer, Vice-Chairman
Jim Tate, Commissioner
Joe Welsh, Commissioner
Ed McCreery, Commissioner
Jim Goodman, Commissioner
Sheryl Dutkanicz, Commissioner

Also
Present Marianne Chaya, Clerk

A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Harbinson called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:10 p.m. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2010 regular meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

C. Public Portion

None

D. Shelton Lakes Recreation Path – upgrade to handicapped accessible standards

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that we have a new kiosk on Lane Street that is a result of a Boy Scout project (Dylan Spagnola, Troop 19). It is featured on the Trails Committee blog. The kiosk will contain some literature about our former member, Harriet Wilber. Commissioner Dutkanicz commented that the kiosk is very heavy duty and well built.

The statement of work has not been completed for the upcoming bid process. Commissioner Tate volunteered to assist.

The 5 granite pillars were stolen from the Nells Rock Rd/Route 108 property. The pillars weigh over 300 lbs. each so we figure it had to be a team effort. The three news agencies ran a story about this today. The Commissioners figured that they must have seen our blogs or Google emails about this and then contacted Chairman Harbinson to get the details.

E. Trails Committee Report – Bill Dyer

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported as follows:

1. Planned Rec Path Project for 2010

a. Paugusset Trail

We have been working on the trail and have done a pretty good job at both ends.

b. Storage area for tools

We are concerned about our tools in the red barn and we will be looking into the possibility of getting some kind of alarm system.

2. Boy Scout projects

I signed off on a boy scout that will replace the J-pond bridge, which is behind the Mitchell nursery off of Nells Rock Rd. He will do a by-pass of the cliff.

3. Expenses for reimbursement

We need to reimburse Terry Gallagher for first-aid kits, post anchors and kiosk hardware, etc. for \$229. 61.

Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to reimburse Trails Committee member Terry Gallagher in the amount of \$229.61 for materials as listed on the reimbursement request. Also to reimburse Agent Teresa Gallagher in the amount of \$100 for paint and paint brushes for the trail blazing plus expenses for attending the CT River Alliance seminar. The funds are to come from a Conservation Commission budget. SECONDED by Commissioner Welsh. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to authorize payment of \$2030.95 for the brush mower. The money is to come from the residual from the DEP grant. SECONDED by Chairman Harbinson. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

It was noted that there should be about \$2400 left in the grant funds. The Commissioners talked about whether the mower is insured as well as other equipment and the maintenance of the equipment. Commissioner Tate suggested that we have a budget line item specifically for the maintenance. Commissioner Goodman said that to add these items on to the City's insurance would not be much of an expense. The list of our equipment plus a photo should be forwarded to Tom Taylor for this to be done.

F. Dog Park Status

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that the committee is raising money for the fencing. They are selling bricks that you can memorialize. So far they have raised about \$1000. Alderman John Papa said he'd like to raise a reasonable amount of money to show the BOA that there are people willing to invest in this project and willing to care for the park. It will probably be put on the May BOA agenda to request funds for the fence.

I spoke with John Papa about the fact that we have yet to have a meeting about the layout and he said that Alderman Papa didn't think we needed to have a meeting. I said I wanted this meeting because we are unhappy with the proposed parking layout. I expressed the necessity of being a part of the planning process. Chairman Harbinson suggested that if Parks & Rec don't want to participate in the planning process, we will. Talk to the City Engineer about the layout, as it would affect the Rec Path.

G. Community Garden

Agent Gallagher emailed the Commissioners of the status as follows:

Original Message-----

From: sheltoncc@googlegroups.com [mailto:sheltoncc@googlegroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Teresa Gallagher

City of Shelton, Conservation Commission
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Sent: Tuesday, April 06, 2010 12:29 PM
To: sheltoncc@googlegroups.com
Subject: SheltonCC Community Garden update

Community Garden Update

At its last meeting, the Community Garden Committee voted to recommend to the Mayor that the City have two garden sites: The Klapik Farm off of Longview Road, and the field behind 279 Soundview Ave. Each garden would have 30 plots. The Mayor has said he will give us his decision before or during the next Garden meeting, which is next Tuesday.

Soundview Site: The Soundview site would not open this year. Stone Gardens Farm grows corn there and would continue to do so this year. They have invested in the field by adding substantial amounts of lime. There is no city water in the street at this time, although the main is not far and might be extended some day. Therefore we would need to employ rain barrels. Preparation for 2011 could begin later this year. The field is extremely rocky and we might need raised beds. Deer fence is necessary.

Klapik – Longview Site: The Committee would like to turn the soil over ASAP and see how much work would be necessary to open the garden up this year. If there are a lot of big rocks to be removed, that would take time. The season is getting late so we might not be able to have this garden ready for 2010, but we could start preparing it.

I obtained quotes for deer fencing. We are looking at over \$5,000 per garden if professionally installed, or about \$1300 per garden if volunteers or city crews install it.

The Mayor asked John Cook and Bob Kulacz about the feasibility of creating an access drive out to Long Hill Avenue. As expected, they cited the wetlands (about 200 feet).

Several people have mentioned the field directly on Long Hill Avenue as a possibility (that is our "site B"). After the big rain about 3 weeks ago, I visited that field and it was full of standing water, while both our Site A (off the end of Longview) and the field at 279 Soundview Avenue were well drained on the same day. I believe there is hard pan under that field. I have also heard concerns about it being an eyesore during the winter on a main road, and it would be located right outside the window of 619 Long Hill Avenue.

We have around 70 people pre-registered and forms keep coming in. At our meeting next Tuesday we plan to have a guest speaker from the Milford Community Garden.

Teresa Gallagher
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The Commissioners talked about the garden and said they were hopeful that it could be open for some planting soon.

Chairman Harbinson talked about the property on Long Hill Ave. that is one of the residual parcels of the property owner from the Klapik Farm. As part of the purchase agreement there was supposed to be a fence installed on the perimeter of their property line for the delineation of their property and the open space. The fence was never installed. The Mayor and Agent Gallagher met with the Klapik family and the result of the meeting was that we would plant some pines along the perimeter as a buffer. The cost will come out of our budget.

Chairman Harbinson and Commissioner Dutkanicz talked about the interest from residents regarding the community garden. The best location would be to come in from Longview Rd.

Chairman Harbinson read from a memo from Agent Gallagher regarding her meeting with Mayor Lauretti and the members of the Klapik family, who owns 619, 605 and 589 Long Hill Ave, which all abut the Klapik and Carroll property. In looking at the Carroll property, which is adjacent to Long Hill School, they want to see delineation between their property and the rear property line (about 190'). They are looking to have a chain-link fence installed. The Mayor indicated that this would probably be done in the fall. Regarding the next Klapik parcel to the north, they had some concerns about where the road frontage was and the open space. (Property details were shown and explained to the Commissioners). The southern Klapik parcel (619 Long Hill Ave), is the one where they want delineation where we will plant a row of white pines (4-5') along the boundary some time this spring. Agent Gallagher will get pricing on the trees. The details of the planting are still undecided.

H. Environmental Review Team (ERT) report for OS 80 Wiacek/Soundview: Status

Commissioner Tate offered some thoughts to the report as to whether they specifically answered our concerns of the Soundview property. We specifically asked them to look at that property for certain reasons, such as if it would be a good location for a community garden or a pocket farm.

Chairman Harbinson said he thought the report did talk a lot about soil types and what would be good for farming or high agricultural use. He also said that this report is only a draft at this point so we need to give them feedback.

Commissioner Tate said that he feels this report may be very important down the line as to whatever happens to those properties in the future. We should get the report in line so that it could be opened for interpretation later.

Chairman Harbinson suggested that we give our feedback to Agent Gallagher so she can contact Kings Mark and give our comments.

Commissioner Tate explained what was said to Kings Mark in a meeting before they did their field walk and what expectations we had in regard to the report on that property. I did note that in the feedback they did address certain areas that

would not be suitable for farming because they were either shallow to rock and wet. There may be certain areas they could describe or highlight different uses.

I. Open Space Trust Account: status

Chairman Harbinson reported that there was a transfer into the Open Space Trust Account in accord with the open space ordinance of \$533K in February 2010. There was expenditure from the account for payment on 279 Soundview Ave. in the amount of \$700K. The balance is \$14,715.87.

Chairman Harbinson stated that he asked Agent Gallagher to check into any subdivision payments pending.

The details of the open space trust account ordinance were discussed.

J. Clean Sweep: update

Chairman Harbinson reported that the event is scheduled for Earth Day week and Agent Gallagher has a Google spreadsheet form set up on the website (www.DontTrashShelton.org). There is a link from the City website. So far there are 30 registered groups.

K. Review of PZC or IWC Applications for Subdivisions and/or Developments

1. Old Applications/Monitor/Follow-up

None

2. New Applications

None

L. Communications

- Environmental review team Kings Mark communication is asking for communities to maintain their support due to cuts in funding from the State. Brochure was passed around and the Commission gave some thought to donating to Kings Mark if we don't already because they have been very helpful to us in the past.
- April 6-29 Connecticut Landscape lecture series – CT Forest & Parks Association
- CT Forest & Parks Assoc. annual fund plea for saving the blue trails
- Shelton Historical Society discussion on farming in CT to be held at the Plum Library on Sunday April 18 at 2 P.M.

M. Executive Session

Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to go into Executive Session for purposes of discussion possible land acquisitions at 7:54 P.M. SECONDED by Commissioner Goodman. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Tape 1, Side B

At 8:15 P.M. Commissioner Tate MOVED to return to regular session. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

N. Comments By Members

Commissioner Tate asked if the Commissioners received a notice in the mail about the Civil War memorial statue. Individually you may want to comment and as a Commission you may want to comment. Basically the question is whether or not you think the statue is warranted. They did an awful lot of work getting that statue to the point where it is now. The statue is of a soldier. The real question is where it should be located. They want it located on the Huntington green, either at the north end or the south end (details explained of the two locations). My thought is the better location is the north end and there is a tree that would have to be moved. Visually it would be better located at the north end.

Commissioner Tate talked about the tree warden and how things get accomplished and he feels that we have an obligation to pay attention to what is going on around town where work is being done. I am not sure that Dean Cawthra has the budget to be able to spray trees that need attention and at times he has come to me to ask to get funds so they can be done. If they are going to want us to fund this kind of thing we are going to have to budget for it and come up with a landscape management plan. Commissioner McCreery agreed that it might be a good idea and we definitely would have to have a maintenance plan established.

Vice-Chairman Dyer said he got a call from Ron Herrick (Parks & Rec) regarding a tree in Riverview Park and he wanted to know if we had a budget for tree removal. I was surprised to get the call because first of all it's in a park and the tree warden works for him. I did go and look at it and it's a big tree.

Commissioner Tate suggested that the answer is that it is the tree warden's responsibility and the Commission has no purview on that.

Commissioner Dutkanicz asked about the bicentennial tree program the City had a few years back. Who maintains those trees and how would you locate your tree? Commissioner Tate suggested talking to Sandy Nesteriak, who spearheaded that program. Parks & Rec would be responsible for the care of the trees. There is a need for the City to have a certified arborist or someone similar to tend to all the trees for maintenance issues.

O. Adjournment

The next regular meeting is Wednesday, May 5, 2010.

Vice Chairman Dyer MOVED to adjourn. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor; MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Conservation Commission