

CITY OF SHELTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes for the Regular Meeting on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 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
Joe Welsh, Commissioner
Sheri Dutkanicz, Commissioner
Jim Tate, Commissioner
Ed McCreery, Commissioner
Jim Goodman, Commissioner

Also

Present: Teresa Gallagher, Conservation Agent
Marianne Chaya, Clerk
Terry Gallagher, Trails Committee

A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Harbinson called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chairman Dyer MOVED to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2013 Regular meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

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C. Public Portion (items not on agenda)

Guy Beardsley, 276 Leavenworth Rd, Shelton Farmers Market

Mr. Beardsley presented the clerk with organic strawberries as a “parting” gift. This was supposed to be Marianne’s farewell meeting but found out yesterday that we are still in search of a clerk to type the minutes from the Trails Committee and Conservation Commission. See Tom Taylor for details.

Thank you Guy for the delicious strawberries!

Commissioner Dutkanicz presented Marianne with a dozen of her “farm-fresh” eggs. Thank you Sheri for the egg treat!

Mr. Beardsley stated that the Farmers Market will start up this month on Saturday June 15th 9AM-1PM. Wednesday’s hours will be 3PM-6PM. There will also be satellite markets at BIC on Wednesdays from 11:30AM-1:30PM. On Thursday’s, in conjunction with Scinto’s free Italian Ice, we will have a market at the statue of David from 11:30AM-1:30PM. We have about 3 vendors that will be at those markets, including me. There are 11 vendors at the Shelton Farmers Market.

D. Trails Committee Report

Boy Scout Logan Clair, 15 Old Dairy Lane, Troop 27 in White Hills.

Logan presented a tri-fold poster board with pictures and details of his proposed project. There are two parts, the trail and stream. Both are located on the Nells Rock loop path. There is a 50’ section of rock on the trail where some of the rocks will be moved and stabilized. I will also flatten the rocks on the trail to make it easier to walk on.

The stream is 6’ wide and I will construct a 2’x6’ bridge.

Logan detailed the construction specifics for the Commissioners.

The Commissioners and Agent Gallagher discussed the width of the bridge and it was pointed out that the 2’ width is good to deter any potential ATV traffic.

They also discussed the width for trail runners.

Commissioner Tate MOVED to endorse Logan Clair’s trail and stream Eagle Scout project as presented. The wood used should be the appropriate pressure-treated as discussed by the Commissioners. SECONDED by Commissioner Dutkanicz. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Commissioner Tate complimented the Boy Scouts on their visual presentations.

Boy Scout Wesley Sekelesky, 3 Webster Drive, Troop 27

Wesley presented a tri-fold poster board of his proposed project with pictures and details.

Wesley’s proposal is on the new Paugusset trail right off of Independence Drive.

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At the proposed location there is a steep embankment where we will make a natural, smooth transition to the trail.

Wesley also said that he will build two series of boardwalks. The first one will be 14' and the second will be 25'. At another location where there is a stream there will be 14' bridge. At the wetlands I will build another boardwalk (6'), the same design as the other two.

Wesley showed and detailed the construction of the structures.

The Commissioners asked specific questions regarding the terrain and some of the details of the dimensions.

Vice-Chairman Dyer said that the standard width for these types of projects is 32".

He asked Logan to modify his to the 32" width.

Commissioner Dutkanicz MOVED to endorse the Eagle Scout project as presented by Wesley Sekelesky. SECONDED by Commissioner Welsh. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Chairman Harbinson thanked the Scouts for their presentations.

Vice-Chairman Dyer reported that they had their National Trails Day event. They hiked from Indian Well parking lot, up to Silent Waters and back. It was on Saturday, June 1st. There were 18 hikers, some of which were from out of town. Terry Gallagher reported that it was a very nice hike although it was very hot. There were only 8 that did the round trip hike. He talked about some of the obstacles along the way. It was nice to have ice water waiting for us at Silent Water.

Vice-Chairman Dyer said that the Mayor has agreed to go out to Mayflower Lane and view the situation we have and review our recommendations regarding a delineation.

He also reported that the Trails Committee is considering having a bike event on the Rec Path on July 20th.

The project on the Paugusset trail at John Dominick to Buddington has been completed by the Boy Scout Josh. This is where we used telephone poles and pressure treated supports in the swamp. They build a platform over the swamp with the telephone poles with 2'8" decking. It really turned out well; it's a nice asset for the town.

Terry Gallagher presented a request for reimbursement for 5 fence posts purchased from Orange Fence in the amount of \$90.40.

Commissioner McCreery MOVED to reimburse Terry Gallagher in the amount of \$90.40 for 5 fence posts purchased from Orange Fence. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Vice-Chairman reported that the next work party will be June 15th.

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Terry Gallagher reported that all the fence rails have been installed so Richard Skudlarek will be purchasing another 10. Most of the rail replacements have been on Silent Waters.

There were 2 wooden bollards destroyed on the Rec Path at Lane Street and Oak Valley Drive. We will make an attempt at repairs ourselves.

There was discussion of how these bollards were probably damaged, which appears by cars. There is no parking available at Lane Street and we had tried to get approval from Wetlands for a couple of spots. They turned us down. We see that people are parking on the Rec Path.

Terry talked about the DOT reconstructing the bridge at Lane St.

Chairman Harbinson stressed the importance of coordinating efforts to insure the area works out for our benefit, if possible. Commissioner Tate suggested writing a letter to the Mayor explaining the current issues regarding pedestrian access to the Rec Path and along Huntington Street.

Commissioner Tate MOVED to directed Agent Gallagher to write a letter to the Mayor, copy to the Police Dept, Street Committee, and City Engineer with their recommendations regarding pedestrian access issues at Lane Street and Huntington St. SECONDED by Vice-Chairman Dyer. All were in favor; MOTION PASSED.

Chairman Harbinson thanked the Trails Committee for all their work and doing the guided hikes.

E. Open Space Trust Account Status

No report

F. Budget – 2013/2014 FY

Chairman Harbinson reported that Agent Gallagher monitors the budget for expenditures. We did put in a request last month for transfers from Other Outside Services to the Part-Time Employee account. As of today, the minutes were not posted online so we are unable to verify if it was handled at the last Board of A& T meeting.

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

1. Old Applications/Monitor/Follow-up

- i. PZC 13-5 Hawks Ridge, Long Hill Cross Road/Beard Sawmill Rd, PDD zone change from Light Industrial for 140 residential units**

No new update. There have been articles in the local papers regarding this application.

2. New Applications

None

H. Communications (sent or received)

- Huntington and White Hills magazine publication with an article about the Shelton Trails Committee and Land Trust getting their 2013 Excellence in Conservation Award. There was also an article on Clean Sweep.

Tape 1, Side B

I. Quality of Life – Executive Session (land acquisition and security issues)

None

J. Comments By Members

Commissioner Welsh said that he went to the Fairfield County regional conservation partnership. It is comprised of Land Trust and Conservation Commission members. At this meeting someone from the DEEP talked about forest and ranch land protection and the funding available. He said they are putting together a committee about connectivity of greenways from town to town.

K. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, July 3, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Conservation Commission