

Conservation Commission
MINUTES
Regular Meeting of January 10, 2008

Members Present

Sheila Stoane
Ellen Lukens
Michael Ennis
Jane Brawerman
Jim Fortuna
Howard Reid
Eric Mosher
Kate Miller
Katchen Coley
David O'Brien
Len Tunderman
Nancy Kiniry
Karen Swartz

Members Absent

Steven Ladd

Others Present

Matt Dodge, Secretary
Bill Warner, Director
Members of the Public

A. Call to Order

Sheila Stoane called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in Room 208 in the Municipal Building.

B. Roll Call

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

C. Public Forum

David Bauer – Eleanor Milardo of Sisk Street installed permeable driveway
Artie Schieman is looking to save his farm.

A discussion ensued regarding a community garden and getting CVH greenhouses or another location for VO-AG or community garden. Mr. Bauer would like the Conservation Commission's help with this.

D. Election of Officers

Nancy Kiniry nominates Sheila Stoane and Chair. Michael Ennis seconds. Unanimously approved.
Kate Miller nominates Jan Brawerman as Vice-Chair. Katchen Coley seconds. Unanimously approved.

E. Minutes

Will vote on next meeting

Motion to move the Executive Session in front of the Old Business was moved by Mike Ennis and seconded by Ellen Lukens to discuss a list of parcels. Approved unanimously.

Executive Session – discussion on purchase of property/development rights from various landowners.

Motion to come out of Executive Session was moved by Ellen Lukens and seconded by Katchen Coley. Approved unanimously.

F. Old Business

1. Farm Viability Study

Still unavailable.

2. Public Relations – Conservation Corner

Kate Miller wrote the December article regarding “Environmental Giving”.

Ellen Lukens did a Sylvio Conte article for January.

April article – Katchen Coley on legislation.

February article – Referendum succeeded, farm viability study and include a reference to the trail guide online.

Kate Miller will think of a topic for March.

Sheila Stoane said to add “Updating the Trail Guide” on the next agenda.

Michael Ennis feels that the Commission should just publish more trail guides as they are now.

Kate Miller suggests that signs on trails would achieve same goal.

Sheila Stoane recommends putting “trail signs” back on agenda.

3. Sub-Committee Recommendation

Motion to approve was moved by Ellen Lukens and seconded by Katchen Coley. Approved unanimously.

4. Other

Ellen Lukens would like all Conservation Commissioners to appear at the next P&Z meeting on January 23rd regarding Old Mill Crossing proposal.

Katchen stated that Rite-Aid drive-thru in conflict with new state clean air laws.

Motion to give Ellen Lukens the power to put together language for letter to P&Z re: the Old Mill proposal was moved by Michael Ennis and seconded by Howard Reid. Approved.

A discussion ensues regarding the nature of the site.

Michael Ennis – Focus our issues – don’t dilute.

Motion to have Katchen Coley relay concerns regarding the Army Base to DEP Commissioner McCarthy was moved by Kate Miller and seconded by Michael Ennis. Approved.

G. New Business

Ellen Lukens – January 14, Sylvio O. Conte meeting. Ellen explains purpose of meeting.

January 14th. – Army Reserve Base proposed meeting at 5 pm in the Council Chambers.

Army Reserve Center – Motion to come up with a statement to explore other options was moved by Ellen Lukens.

Katchen Coley explains BRAC requirements and Army’s proposal and how the process was started at finding the Freeman Road site and that alternatives can be discussed. Katchen wants the Conservation Commission to come to the Army Base meeting on January 14th and discuss at the next meeting.

A discussion ensues

Councilman Roberts joins meeting and shows letter (Exhibit #1) from Bill Warner to the Commissioner of the CT Department of Economic and Community Development.

H. Correspondence

Kate Miller – announcement for Jonah Center “Home Energy Conservation”.

I. Member Forum

Katchen Coley passes out American Farmland Trust brochure and talks about Sylvio O. Conte Refuge.

A discussion ensued regarding changing the Conservation Commission meeting day.

Kate Miller mentioned that some appointments will be up this year or next. Sheila Stoane said that it's been taken care of.

J. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:25 PM was moved by Michael Ennis and seconded by Jim Fortuna. Approved unanimously.