

**Conservation Commission**  
**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of February 7, 2008**

**Members Present**

Sheila Stoane  
Ellen Lukens  
Katchen Coley  
Jim Fortuna  
Eric Mosher  
Kate Miller  
David O'Brien  
Karen Swartz  
Jane Brawerman

**Members Absent**

Steven Ladd  
Michael Ennis  
Nancy Kiniry  
Len Tunderman  
Howard Reid

**Others Present**

Matt Dodge, Secretary  
Bill Warner, Director

**A. Call to Order**

Sheila Stoane called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm in Room #3 at Russell Library.

**B. Roll Call**

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

**C. Public Forum**

No members of the public were present.

**D. Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes was moved by Eric Mosher and seconded by Kate Miller. Jim Fortuna, Karen Swartz, Sheila Stone abstains. Motion approved.

**E. Old Business**

**1. Farm Viability Study**

Matt Dodge explains that we have received the report and it's being reviewed. The Commission can view it in the office in draft form.

**2. Public Relations – Conservation Corner**

There is no February article. Kate Miller will do March article regarding "Pollution and Water Sources".

An April article will be written by Katchen Coley regarding legislation.

May article – Berry Chernoff will be approached by Kate on "Feet to the Fire".

Article for June regarding "Global Warming" and kids and art. Sheila will talk to Michael Ennis.

**3. Open Space Status**

The Commission discussed Schieman, Wesleyan and Guida Farm expansion status.

Add POCD – Clarify labeling to designate previously approved vs new draft versions of the Plan On Conservation and Development.

4. Community Garden

The following should be contacted to find out demand.

- a. Jan Robinson – member for the garden behind the Senior Club.
- b. NEAT
- c. Wesleyan - Dave Hall (head of grounds)

5. Army Base Reserve Center

The Commission discussed the Army Base location – passed around the Common Council site selection criteria.

A discussion ensued

Workshop to be held during February vacation with the Army proposal.

Was letter from the Conservation Commission sent out to the Common Council? No need; letter to be read at Army Center Workshops. Statement regarding opposition of Freeman Road and any other site in Maromas. The Conservation Commission would support Brownfields redevelopment. The Commission supports the council criteria

Motion to authorize letter to be written to the Mayor and the Common Council that states the Conservation Commission's position on citing of Army Reserve Base was moved by Katchen Coley and seconded by Ellen Lukens. Matt Dodge will draft letter and send to the Commission. Katchen and Ellen to present letter at workshop the week of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Motion passed.

6. Updating the Trail Guide

Kate knows student with G.I.S. knowledge who would be willing to update the Trail Guide over the summer and map new properties.

Matt will coordinate – add map of Open Space parcels to the trail guide.

Motion to hire someone to update trail guide was moved by Kate Miller and seconded by Eric Mosher. Motion approved.

7. Trail Signs

Ellen explains trail signs should be like the Middletown Nature Garden or Ravine Park. A discussion ensues regarding sign vandalism.

What will happen to \$3,500 if not used? Can this be used for graphic designers to create a sign?

Motion to use funds for the development of a logo and enhancing on-site education was moved by Katchen Coley and seconded by Eric Mosher. Motion approved.

8. CVH

Report not presented yet.

Jane Brawerman discussed the Old Mill Crossing letter. Matt will get letter to Ellen Lukens for the P&Z mailout. Ellen will read letter at the public hearing.

F. New Business

Proposed Dog Park at Veteran's Park. A discussion ensued regarding parking and trails.

G. Correspondence

Habitat

#### H. Member Forum

Jane Brawerman distributed Plant and Shrub sale brochure.

#### J. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM was moved by Jim Fortuna and seconded by Dave O'Brien.  
Approved unanimously.