

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

February 19, 1998

PRESENT

J. Brawerman
L. Tundermann
J. Brawerman
E. Lukens
J. Beatty (alt.)
S. Stoane
M. DeRosier
J. Fortuna
A.Siniscalchi

ALSO PRESENT

James Sipperly, Environmental
Planner
Wes Downing, Park & Rec.
Director

ABSENT

K. Humphrey
D. Filer
K. Coley
M. Knight

A. Chairman Alan Siniscalchi called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

J. Beatty and J. Fortuna have full voting status tonight as alternates.

Motion: To move item E-1 Conservation Commission Brochure to the beginning of the agenda so that our guest, Wes Downing does not have to wait.

Moved by J. Fortuna; seconded by M. DeRosier; vote approved unanimously

Mr. Downing reported that he learned the Conservation Commission is developing a Conservation brochure listing the areas of open spaces for hiking. He stated that the Park and Recreation Commission is working on a similar brochure for its parks.

Mr. Downing stated that we should not duplicate efforts or resources. He stated that the Parks Commission wants to separate the parks from the open space areas and that he is the liaison to bring this idea to the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Siniscalchi stated that if we do separate brochures we should have similar styles and formats.

Mr. Tundermann questioned the funding Park and Recreation will use and Mr. Downing responded that he has no funds presently. Mr. Sipperly stated that the Conservation has \$2000 encumbered for printing and that he contacted Gates Prison in Niantic, Connecticut, and they have a print shop to train prisoners and agreed to do work for Middletown. The details will need to be worked out. Sheila Stoane stated that there is no set time frame as of yet.

Ms. DeRosier suggested that perhaps Mr. Downing can request that Park and Recreation have a liaison come to our meeting.

Mr. Siniscalchi stated that we need a liaison from both commissions to attend each others meetings so we can better utilize resources and improve services.

Mr. Sipperly recommended that the two commissions exchange minutes to better be informed of commissions duties and actions.

Len Tundermann recommended forming a subcommittee of the two commissions to unite on the brochure.

Mr. Downing will go back to his commission and inform them that the Conservation Commission has a flexible time having a possible source of printing, and that we would like to form sub-committee's to work on this.

Mr. Downing also stated that this is a staff level project and will be presented and approved by the Park and Recreation Commission.

S. Stoane stated she is open and flexible to any ideas and volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

The Commission members present thanked Wes Downing for attending.

Mr. Tundermann mentioned about using the photo contest pictures in the brochure.

Pat Rash, a graphic designer is willing to aid the commission in developing the brochure.

B. Minutes of January 8, 1998

Marie DeRosier stated that her son's name is Patrick, not John, on page 4.

Also on motion regarding trap rock ridges, the wording vote was unanimous should be stricken.

Change "expeditions" on page four to "expeditious"

Motion: To approve the minutes as amended.

J. Beatty moved; seconded by J. Fortuna

J. Brawerman and S. Stoane abstained and everyone else was in favor.

C. Officers Reports

Mr. Sipperly read into the record Martin Knights letter of resignation.

The Commission accepted his letter with regret and Mr. Sipperly will draft a letter of thanks to M. Knight on behalf of the Commission.

Mr. Sipperly distributed copies of the article regarding Middletown being a Connecticut Trail town.

L. Tundermann requested an open space map, as well as S. Stoane

The Commission would like to contact schools to solicit an intern or a student liaison to the commission.

Mr. Siniscalchi stated he wants to start up the standing sub-committees. They are Open Space Preservation , Natural Resource Inventory and City Commission Liaison Committees.

D. Committee Reports

No reports at this time

E.2. Trap Rock Ridge Protection Regulations

Mr. Siniscalchi reported on the history of these regulations. The Conservation Commission withdrew the regulations and the Planning and Zoning Commission are organized once again and have full membership.

Mr. Siniscalchi discussed the content of the regulations and his independent research on comparing various drafts. A discussion ensued regarding special permits and the way these regulations will be enforced.

Motion: To reintroduce and send to the Planning and Zoning Commission the amended version of the Trap Rock Ridge Protection Regulations.

J. Beatty moved; L. Tundermann seconded

Some discussion ensued regarding comments generated from the public and Planning and Zoning members on these regulations.

Vote: approved unanimously with James Fortuna and Alan Siniscalchi abstaining.

3. Photo Contest

Midtown Photo will be approached, and staff will check with the Connecticut Forest and Park Association for a donation.

Ellen Lukens can get a \$10.00 dollar gift certificate from Elaine at Atticus Book Store.

We will do a small display and press release at the library.

4. Newfield Street Corridor Committee

Mr. Sipperly and others discussed the review of the limited information for this corridor.

A discussion ensued regarding Planning and Zoning Commission's history of land use in the area.

A discussion ensued regarding what was requested and what information can be generated and presented.

Staff will get a composite map from Midstate with the information L. Tundermann requested.

A special meeting will be scheduled for Thursday February 26, 1998; 7:00 p.m.

Motion: To have the Natural Resource Inventory subcommittee be authorized to study this corridor and have them present their findings to the Planning & Zoning Commission workshop.

Moved by: J. Beatty; seconded by M. DeRosier; approved unanimously with J. Fortuna abstaining

Alan Siniscalchi appointed the members to the subcommittee, for a period of (1) year as listed on the attached list of initial appointments.

5. Middletown Nature Gardens

A. Siniscalchi explained the issues regarding this agreement. Much discussion ensued regarding the commissions role and responsibility reviewing the contract and deciding what was completed and what remains to be done.

A. Siniscalchi requested that staff contact the City Attorney's office to clarify the commission's responsibility and who's decision is it to decide on the telephone in order to do a walk thru of the property.

F. New Business

A. Siniscalchi stated that people are working on spring activities in conjunction with other groups.

Connecticut Trails Day is June 6, 1998, Saturday and the Connecticut Forest and Park Association would like the Commission to sponsor a hike. The Commission wants to sponsor a hike at Guida Farms and staff will coordinate the details.

2. Metacomet Ridge Conservation Compact

Many of the towns in the region are signing this compact.

4.

Motion: That the Middletown Conservation Commission sign the regional compact

Moved by: J. Brawerman; seconded by L. Tundermann; approved unanimously

3. Alternate opening - We have 2 openings for alternates and please submit additional names for consideration.

Marie DeRosier objected to having someone appointed to the commission who does not live in town.

Mr. Sipperly responded that precedent has been set already by other boards and commissions doing this. The city ordinance does not prohibit this either.

Correspondence

F. There will be a forum on Freedom of Information on February 26, 1998, and members are encouraged to attend.

Land Trust Service Bureau is having a Land Trust Convocation.

Trust for Public Land published a document "Protecting Connecticut's Water Quality.

A financial future of the Guida Farm Area was distributed.

L. Tundermann mentioned that the Youth Conservation Corp. be reassigned to the Conservation Commission and the Planning Department and have staff assist them.

Motion to Adjourn at 10:10 p.m.

Moved by J. Fortuna; seconded by J. Beatty

approved unanimously

5.