

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 21, 1991

MINUTES

PRESENT

R. Klattenberg, Chairman  
A. Siniscalchi  
M. Giamei  
C. Harris (left at approx. 10:15)  
K. Coley  
E. Kelsey  
G. Russo  
J. Chace  
C. Peterson (left at 7:27)  
L. Tundermann (arrived at 9:00)  
J. Brawerman (arrived at 8:44)  
E. Patton

ABSENT

S. Faraci  
T. Christopher

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by R. Klattenberg, Chairman, at 7:12 p.m. in Room B-20 of the Municipal Building. Alternate members J. Chace and E. Patton were seated as voting members. M. Giamei was made Acting Secretary.

Minutes

a. Drafted

December 13, 1990 - A motion was made by C. Harris, seconded by K. Coley, to approve the minutes, as amended, passed 6:0 (abstained: E. Kelsey, G. Russo, E. Patton, J. Chace).

January 10, 1991 - A motion was made by C. Harris, seconded by C. Peterson, to approve the minutes, as amended, passed 7:0 (abstained: G. Russo, E. Patton, J. Chace).

C. Peterson left the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

b. Amended

November 27, 1990 - Special Meeting - A corrected copy of the special meeting, approved on January 10, 1991, was provided for the Commissioners.

Officers and Committee Reports

Vice Chairman - A. Siniscalchi - no report at this time.

Chairman - R. Klattenberg distributed copies of the Conservation Commission 1990 Annual Report. In addition, the correct Committee assignments were reaffirmed for 1991.

Watershed Trails - G. Russo reported that in light of the fact that the Water Pollution Control Authority does not support a watershed trails system at this time, the Chairman G. Russo recommends other possible options that may be more suitable for planning hiking trails elsewhere in the City.

A motion was made by C. Harris, seconded by E. Kelsey, to remove the Watershed Trails Committee from the agenda. Motion passed 8:0 (abstained: G. Russo).

Open Space Preservation - A. Siniscalchi reported that the Committee had its first meeting of the year. Business conducted included the re-election of A. Siniscalchi, Chairperson, approval of minutes and an update on the status of open space parcels being reviewed.

Natural Resource Inventory - J. Brawerman, re-elected Chairperson, stated that the next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 1991 at 7:30 p.m.

City Commissions Liaison - No report.

Coginchaug River Task Force - A motion was made by G. Russo, seconded by J. Chace, to remove the Coginchaug River Task Force from the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Planning & Zoning Text Amendment - A. Siniscalchi had no report, but noted that the Committee should remain on the agenda with an upcoming meeting scheduled for February 28, 1991. R. Klattenberg passed out copies of two documents regarding ordinances for the conservation and protection of trees.

#### Old Business

City of Middletown/Smith Park Project - A. Siniscalchi and E. Patton disqualified themselves and left the meeting. R. Klattenberg reported that members (R. Klattenberg, M. Giamei and J. Chace) made a site visit to the proposed Smith Park on February 17th in cooperation with the Inland Wetlands Agency. Maguire Group, Inc. then made a presentation to the Commission, explaining the most recent changes in the application for Smith Park before the Inland Wetlands Agency, with a public forum following.

J. Brawerman arrived at 8:44 p.m.

L. Tundermann arrived at 9:00 p.m.

#### Public Forum/City of Middletown/Smith Park Project

Earl Roberts asked the Maguire representatives about ground water monitoring concerning the water quality in that watershed. Clinton Webb, a wetlands specialist, answered that the natural system will cleanse itself.

Jeffrey Pierce asked whether there were any recommendations on types of fertilizers to be used. Clinton Webb answered that no pesticides or fertilizers will be used except for seeding.

With no further questions or comments from the public, the public forum was closed.

G. Russo made a motion, seconded by K. Coley, that the Conservation Commission recommend to the Inland Wetlands Agency approval of the latest revision of the Smith Park Project including the moving of the parking area. It is understood that the northern most parking area be repositioned to protect the stand of pine trees nearby. Motion passed - 7:0 (abstained: J. Brawerman and L. Tundermann).

The Commission took a break at 9:25 p.m. and reconvened at 9:30 p.m. A. Siniscalchi and E. Patton returned to the meeting.

1991 Standing Committee Assignments - A motion was made by C. Harris, seconded by J. Brawerman, to approve the standing committee assignments as present in the package. Motion passed 10:0 (abstained: E. Kelsey).

Nature Trail Information Request - J. Brawerman reported that the Natural Resource Committee will address this.

Open Space Detention/Retention Basin Position Statement - Tabled.

#### New Business

#### Berlin/Meriden/Middletown Conservation Commissions Lamentation Ridge Protection Initiatives

Chairman R. Klattenberg reported that the Meriden and Berlin Conservation Commissions would be interested in working with the Middletown Conservation Commission in a joint effort to consider the conservation/preservation of the Lamentation Ridge area. Individuals offering their interest/support include: Jim Gibbons, UConn Cooperative Extension Systems; John Hibbard, CT Forest and Park Assoc.; Jelle DeBoer, Wesleyan University; Bill Warner, Planning & Zoning Department; and, others. A meeting is scheduled for March 19, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. at the CT Forest and Park Association. A. Siniscalchi made a motion, seconded by J. Brawerman, that the Conservation Commission endorse the tri-town meeting of March 19th concerning the Lamentation Mountain area. Motion passed 11:1 (opposed: E. Kelsey). J. Brawerman and A. Siniscalchi volunteered for this project.

A second motion made by G. Russo, seconded by L. Tundermann, stated that the Conservation Commission set aside money for refreshments for the Lamentation Mountain meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.

City of Middletown/McCutcheon Park Project - Representatives of Maguire Group, Inc. made a brief presentation of the City of Middletown McCutcheon Park Project application which is currently before the Inland Wetlands Agency. They described the current facility with its problems and concerns. Next they

*Amend*

pointed out changes and solutions to improve bathhouse facilities, the beach, lake conditions, including the septic system, increased usage of the park and the environmental impacts. R. Klattenberg point out that there are four sets of plans to be reviewed. The Inland Wetlands Agency's public hearing is scheduled for March 6, 1991.

Correspondence

DEP Trees for Arbor Day Planting from Peter Babcock - G. Russo made a motion, seconded by A. Siniscalchi, to put the Dennison Park issue on the agenda for the next meeting. K. Coley will contact Bruce Spaman to gain information about the trees previously planted there and reportedly mowed down. She will report back at the next meeting. Motion was approved unanimously.

Jim Gibbons Questionnaire - Commissioners will fill out and submit the questionnaires on their own.

R. Klattenberg: "How a Regulation is Adopted" - R. Klattenberg distributed copies in the meeting packets for the Commissioners information.

Minor Hills Golf Course - Soil Resource Consultants Letters, dated January 20 and January 25, 1991. Copies were included in the meeting packet.

Public Forum

None

Member Forum

E. Kelsey talked to Zoning Enforcement Officer George Lapadula concerning a Route 66 project. She stated that Mr. Lapadula should be invited to speak to the Conservation Commission in regard to the Route 66 project and other similar projects having to do with State agencies. C. Harris made a motion, seconded by E. Kelsey, requesting City Commissions Liaisons Chairman L. Tundermann to speak to George Lapadula concerning the Route 66 project and other projects involving State agencies. Motion passed: 10:0 (abstained: J. Chace).

J. Brawerman alerted the Conservation Commission to the proposed DEP budget cuts, noting that there will be an Appropriations public hearing on February 25, 1991 at the Legislative Office Building, with a rally preceding the hearing.

With an April 28, 1991 Earth Day celebration being planned, J. Brawerman noted that the Recycling Committee has, again, asked her to take charge of the event.

E. Kelsey stated that she went to City Hall to check on the minutes of the meeting of November 27, 1990. She claims that the minutes were not available at that time. She also said that when she listened to the tape of the meeting, the tape was not clear to here. She made a motion that the

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Conservation Commission allow her an opportunity to review the minutes of November 27, 1990 or any other meeting where she wasn't called back, she would have until the next regularly scheduled meeting so she may change her vote. (Note: C. Harris left the meeting at approximately 10:15 p.m.) It was pointed out that the November 27th minutes were included in the meeting packet mailed in advance of the meeting. There being no second to the motion, the motion died.

E. Kelsey requested a review of the by-laws.

R. Klattenberg made a motion, seconded by G. Russo, that the aquifer protection program needs to be reviewed by the Conservation Commission through the City Liaison Committee. Motion passed 10:1 (opposed: E. Kelsey).

Adjournment

At 10:42 p.m., a motion made by A. Siniscalchi, seconded by G. Russo, to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:

Melanie P. Giamei

MPG/bds

APPROVED ON: \_\_\_\_\_