

MIDDLETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Special Meeting: March 6, 1989

PRESENT

Ellie Kelsey, Chairman
Peter Paton
Melanie Giamei
Ray Daniels
Leon Vinci

Guests: Mrs. John Reynolds
Middletown Garden Club

Mr. Robert Merriam
Merriam Tree Farm

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

No one from the public spoke.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the 1/30/89 meeting were read and amended to read (P.2 under New Business) Susan Cooley, President of the Northern Middlesex Land Trust will be invited to speak at a future meeting...

Leon Vinci made a MOTION to accept the amended minutes, Peter Paton seconded it, MOTION PASSED.

TREASURY REPORT

Ellie Kelsey reported that she had purchased tapes to record the meetings. The price of the tapes was \$6.99.

OLD BUSINESS

I. THANK YOU NOTE

Ellie Kelsey will write a note to City Planner George Reif thanking him for the maps he provided to the Conservation Comm.

II. SUMNER BROOK BRIDGE REPORT (IW-88-300)

Peter Paton inspected the Sumner Brook Bridge and the surrounding area. He stated that the existing bridge is clearly under-sized, and recommends that the State study the situation. He found no evidence of bank erosion, but said that simply cleaning the channel will not solve the existing problem. A Public Hearing is scheduled for April 5, 1989 at 10:00am. at the State Office Bldg. in Hartford. He recommended that his findings be submitted to the Office of Municipal Development using their discretion as to whether they want to use his findings for the Hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

I. MAPPING TECHNIQUES MANUAL

Ellie Kelsey distributed copies of a Manual of Mapping Techniques For Natural Resources Inventories written by James Gibbons and Alison Guinness. She recommended that the Commissioners read it and use it as a guide in our future meetings.

II. REQUEST FOR ALTERNATES

A letter from the Conservation Commission Chairman to Steven Shapiro, Ordinance Study Committee Chairman was read. The letter was a request for a change in our Municipal Statutes to conform with State Statutes..to include three alternates for the Conservation Commission.

III. MAP PRIORITIES

City Planner George Reif provided the Commission with a collection of city maps. The Commission will decide on the order of their importance to the Commission so that work that needs to be done on any of them will proceed in order of priority and budget constraints. The maps include:

- Town Base Map
- Topographical Map
- Water And Sewer Map
- Zoning Map
- Environmentally Sensitive/Natural Areas Map
- Soil Survey Map
- Water Resources Map
- and others.

MOTION: The costs for map work will be looked into so that a draft for a request to Common Council can be made. Ray Daniels made the motion, seconded by Leon Vinci. MOTION PASSED

IV. OPEN SPACE

A discussion was held concerning a precise definition of the term open space. Should land that is developed be accepted as open space? A position should be taken and relayed to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

V. RIVER ROAD SUBDIVISION

A letter was read concerning a proposal to the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding a Proposed Subdivision Regulations Amendment to include ^{the} Large Lot Environmentally Sensitive Subdivision concept which includes private roadway development. The applicant

is Edward Savard. Environmental concerns were raised about the application for a proposed 13 lot subdivision on River Road.

VI. URBAN FORESTRY REPORT

Ellie Kelsey reported on the Urban Forestry Program held on Feb. 23, 1989. She explained that Mayor Garafalo would like the Conservation Commission to undertake this project. The grant will be announced in April.

MOTION: A letter be sent to the Mayor stating support to help manage the Urban Forestry Project. Ray Daniels made the motion, seconded by Peter Paton. MOTION PASSED.

VII. MIDDLETOWN NURSERY TREE OFFER

A Middletown nursery has offered the city a substantial number of Christmas trees and hardwood trees. Ellie Kelsey will discuss the offer with Tree Warden Joe Serra. She will also attend the next Park & Recreation Commission meeting regarding the trees.

VIII. CITY TREE REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL

MOTION: The Conservation Commission recommend to the City of Middletown that whenever possible, the City will replace trees that have been cut down. Ray Daniels made the motion, seconded by Peter Paton. MOTION PASSED.

IX. ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

The Conservation Commission received a letter from the State Bureau of Forestry, DEP, offering a seedling distribution program, planting and ceremony to celebrate Arbor Day.

Robert Merriam of Merriam Tree Farm has offered to donate trees to the school children of Middletown to celebrate Arbor Day.

MOTION:

A letter will be sent to the Municipal Development Committee regarding funding for the project, including the Bureau of Forestry recommendations, requesting approximately \$500 to cover the project. Peter Paton made the motion, seconded by Ray Daniels. MOTION PASSED.

X. LAND USE WORKSHOP

Chairman Ellie Kelsey attended a Land Use Workshop entitled "Striking A Balance" at the Ramada Inn on Feb. 17, 1989.

She reported on the meeting and its emphasis on keeping America clean and taking care of our natural resources.

MOTION: Ellie Kelsey be reimbursed for the sum of \$25.00, the registration fee for the Land Use Workshop of Feb. 17, '89 at the Ramada Inn, Meriden. Ray Daniels made the motion, seconded by Peter Paton. MOTION PASSED.

XI. UTILITY COMPANY HERBICIDE USE

A letter will be drafted regarding the Utility Company's use of herbicides on their easements along roadsides to prohibit rapid regrowth after trimming trees.

XII. EXPANSION OF THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

A letter was read concerning DEP and the expansion of the Water Treatment Plant on River Road. Comment from this commission regarding a landscaping plan to address streambank stabilization will be addressed at a later date.

XIII. PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE

Mrs. John Reynolds of the Middletown Garden Club attended the meeting to ask that several bills introduced in the current Legislative Session concerning the preservation of open space land be supported by the Conservation Commission along with the Middletown Garden Club, with the Commission favoring the request.

XIV. ADVISORY ROLE

Peter Paton read his letter of recommendations concerning the Subdivision/Low Income Housing issue from our last meeting. The letter included specific suggestions for the Commission to take if we are to act in an advisory capacity for P & Z and IW applications.

XV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of officers was held with the following results:

Chairman	Eleanor Kelsey
Vice-Chair.	Peter Paton
Secretary	Melanie Giamei
Treasurer	Raymond Daniels

The next scheduled meeting has been set for March 20, 1989 at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Melanie P. Giamei

Melanie P. Giamei, Secretary