

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

MARCH 9, 2000

PRESENT

K. Coley .
E. Lukens
Holder .
K. Humphrey.
J. Fortuna
J. Beatty
L. Tundermann @ 7:25 p.m.
J. Brawerman @ 7:50 p.m.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Sipperly, Staff
Arline Rich
Anne Bickford

ABSENT

A. Siniscalchi
J. Marhevka
K. Porter
S. Stoane

A. Call to Order

Vice-Chair assumed the Chairmanship, in absence of S. Stoane. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. in the Board Room at Russell Library.

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

Every member in attendance is a voting member.

B. Minutes of February 10, 2000

Corrections: pg. 3 creatures should be features, pg. 4 eliminate 1 set of moved by K. Coley\seconded by J. Beatty Approved unanimously, pg. 6 duration should be donation.

Motion: To approve the minutes of Feb. 10, 2000 as amended.

Moved by E. Lukens\seconded by J. Beatty

Approved unanimously

Motion: To move public forum to this portion of the meeting.

Moved by J. Beatty\seconded by L. Holder

Approved unanimously

Anne Bickford and Arline Rich discussed the need to acquire land in the Westfield Section of the City for Open Space. Much discussion ensued regarding the Plan of Conservation and Development and the need to modify the resource maps.

L. Tundermann arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Anne Bickford offered that her group would attend the Common Council Meeting in support of the Open Space initiative.

C. Officers and Committee Reports

1. J. Beatty reported that the Rockfall Grant was awarded to the MSWCD for the Vernal Pool Study and they are working on this study independently from the city.
2. K. Humphrey reported on a meeting at the CT Legislative Office Building yesterday in Hartford regarding clean air.

Motion: To send a letter to any representatives in the Middletown area regarding supporting the shortest time period possible in bringing the plants into compliance.

Moved by J. Beatty\seconded by K. Humphrey

Approved unanimously

1. Open Space Brochure
Ellen Lukens reported on the progress, the maps are being finalized and the text is being put into final form.
2. Fee in Lieu of Open Space

Mr. Sipperly reported that he hasn't been actively working on this. Until such time more information is compiled nothing will be sent. L. Tundermann would like this to be given more attention. Mr. Sipperly will prioritize this after the Open Space issues are addressed.

3. Mattabasset Stakeholders Meetings

Mr. Sipperly reported on the next time and date for the meeting. The plan is being revised based on comments from member towns city officials.

J. Brawerman arrived at 7:50 p.m.

4. Earth Day 2000 Hike to clear trails

Mr. Sipperly suggested that the Conservation Commission should sponsor a guided hike on April 15, 2000, a Saturday. A trail could be picked that is in need of maintenance or that needs to be blazed and marked. He asked for suggestions and locations.

5. Tynan Park Barn condition

Mr. Sipperly reported that a memo was forwarded to Wes Downing regarding the removal of the barn at Tynan Park. Arline Rich reported that money was requested in the Park and Recreation Budget to remove the barn.

6. City Park Maintenance Issues, Sponsor a Park – J. Beatty

The idea of having corporate sponsors maintaining parks will be pursued. Mr. Sipperly has requested information from CCM regarding this matter.

D. New Business

1. Plan of Conservation and Development

The Commission would like to add parcels to the existing open space preservation map. Some parcels offered were not currently designated on the current plan for future acquisition.

Motion: To draft a letter to the consultants making them aware that certain parcels should be added to the green areas of the map depicting areas of future acquisition.

Moved by K. Coley\seconded by L. Holder

Approved unanimously

This item will be placed on the next agenda.

2. Edward Makuch Land Conveyance Round Hill Road

Mr. Sipperly explained the current situation regarding the conveyance of land and reported that the Finance Committee is considering Mr. Makuch's first request.

A subsequent letter was recently received that adds that Mr. Makuch would like his property taxes waived for 10 years after his death for his daughter. Much discussion ensued.

Motion: To concur with the Finance Committee that the Conservation Commission is still interested in the Makuch property and that we are exceedingly hopeful that the Finance Committee can negotiate favorable terms to purchase or acquire the property.

Moved by L. Holder\seconded by J. Beatty

Approved unanimously

3. State Open Space Acquisition Program

The Planning, Conservation & Development Office received word that additional monies have become available for purchase of land with access to public waters. The open space subcommittee is researching this further.

E. Correspondence

Miscellaneous correspondence was reviewed

Mr. Sipperly reported that he is looking for information requested by Jesse Salafia.

F. Public Forum

G. Member Forum

K. Humphrey discussed the lighting of the Arrigoni Bridge and has serious concerns about it. A discussion ensued.

Motion: That the Middletown Conservation Commission express their concerns regarding the lighting of the bridge to the extent that it will have a negative affect on power generation, the Wesleyan Observatory and bird migration. Also we are concerned with the cost to the City.

Moved by K. Humphrey\seconded by L. Holder

Much Discussion ensued.

The consensus of the Commission is to obtain more information prior to a vote of this type.

Motion: To table this motion

Moved by K. Humphrey\seconded by J. Beatty

Approved unanimously

H. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Moved by J. Fortuna\seconded by J. Beatty, Approved unanimously