

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of

Regular Meeting of March 10, 2005

Members Present

Sheila Stoane
Howard Reid
Katchen Coley
Kate Miller
James Fortuna
Jane Brawerman
Nancy Kiniry
Len Tundermann

Members Absent

David O'Brien
Michael Ennis
Stephen Ladd
Gerald Rankin
Ellen Lukens

Others Present

Brian Robinson, ZEO
William Warner, Director
of PC&D

A-B Call to order

1. Roll Call.

Chairwoman Sheila Stoane called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m in Room 208 in the Municipal Building. The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

C. Public Forum

No public comment

Plan of Development/Open Space

William Warner, Director of Planning, Conservation and Development, summarized the status of bond money for open space. Approximately \$2.95 million of \$3 million has already been spent from the available bond money. Mr. Warner stated that Mr. Phil Salafia expressed interest to sell his property along the Mattabessett River (approximately 24 acres). The Commission could use remaining bond money or get appropriation from the Council.

Mr. Warner stated that federal and state money could be combined to acquire the Grave's property. The Planning Department will resubmit the application to the USDA for the April 5, 2005 deadline.

Sheila Stoane asked Mr. Warner about setting up an account for revenue from the trail guide. Mr. Warner responded that the commission could put the revenue in escrow until an account is setup. A purchase order has been approved for the project.

William Warner summarized the proposed updates to the Plan of Development. Mr. Warner handed out a memo dated 1/7/05. Mr. Warner summarized the remaining undeveloped land available in the city using a map. A total of 4,000 acres of open space has already been preserved.

Commission discussion ensued regarding the Plan of Development. Kate Miller recommended including groundwater in the Plan of Development. Sheila Stoane recommended including blasting. Kate Miller recommended including tree cutting. Katchen Coley suggested getting a balance on the open space bonding.

Mr. Warner recommended having Northeast Utilities commit the Maromas land to dedicated open space. The Commission discussed rezoning Maromas to light industrial or residential zones.

William Warner left the meeting at 8:10pm.

D. Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting (February 10, 2005) were read.

Motion: To approve the minutes of February 10, 2005.
Moved by Nancy Kiniry and seconded by James Fortuna.
Approved unanimously

E. Old Business

1. Trail Guide

Sheila Stoane stated she has received a proof from the prison. Changes have been made and a new proof will be resubmitted. 1,000 copies will be completed in 2 to 3 weeks after the prison receives the new proof.

Katchen Coley will call about reserving a table for the Wesleyan Earth Day Celebration.

2. Public Relations – Conservation Corner

Sheila Stoane asked who would write the article for the Middletown Press/Chronicle. March 20, 2005 is the deadline for the April Chronicle issue. Katchen Coley volunteered to write an article for the Chronicle on Legislative Review.

Kate Miller said that she has an article already prepared for the May or June Chronicle.

Len Tundermann recommended putting the trail guide on the web.

3. Open Space Status

Already discussed.

4. NU Transmission Lines

Katchen Coley said that there is a meeting tonight in Durham and that an update on the Northeast Utilities transmission lines would be available in April.

5. Other

Katchen Coley summarized the proposed pesticide legislature. The proposed bill will not allow municipalities to ban pesticides.

F. New Business

1. Restructuring of Local Land Use Commissions Proposed – HB 1083

Sheila Stoane briefly summarized the proposal and said she would forward correspondence.

2. Bond Referendum

Already discussed.

3. Stopping lawn-care pesticide use

Already discussed.

4. Charging for the Trail Guide

Sheila Stoane spoke to Mr. Warner and he said that he has to go to the council to approve the new account.

G. Correspondence

1. Robert Nolan resigned from the commission. The commission recommended Laura Haul as a potential new commission member.

2. Metacomet Trail Information

3. Proposed Conservation Easement Text. Brian Robinson explained that East Haddam is proposing to purchase development rights to a farm property in their town and are also proposing to purchase a conservation easement for a portion of the property. Sheila Stoane recommended filing the text for future reference.

4. Conservation Times

5. Forward the Agrisource Dispatch Article to next meeting to discuss Parks and Rec field maintenance.

H. Member Forum

None

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:15pm

Moved by James Fortuna and seconded by Kate Miller

Approved unanimously