

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting of March 11, 2004

Members Present

Steve Ladd
Kate Miller
Katchen Coley
Sheila Stoane
Len Tundermann
Jim Fortuna
Nancy Kiniry
Jane Brawerman

Members Absent

Mike Ennis
Rob Nolan
Ellen Lukens
Dave O'Brien
Gerald Rankin

Others Present

Jim Sipperly, Staff
E. Kelsey

- A. Call to order
1. Roll Call

Chairperson, Sheila Stoane called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in Room 208 of the Municipal Building. The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

- B. Public Forum

E. Kelsey from the public was in attendance

- C. Minutes

The minutes of February 19, 2004 were reviewed in detail.

Discussion on the minutes: add to "B" under Public Forum at the end, "the Commission explained to Mr. Graves that this application was never a done deal."

Motion to approve the minutes

Moved by

Approved unanimously with D. O'Brien & K. Miller abstaining.

- D. Officers and Committee Reports

None reported

- E. Old Business

1. Trail Guide

Sheila Stoane distributed copies of the trail maps and text to members to have them checked and field verified. Members should be able to get these back at the next meeting so that the layout of the trail book can be assembled by the graphic artist.

2. Public Relations – Conservation Corner

Mike Ennis wrote a great article about the power lines. It was in the Middletown Press and the Chronicle.

Mike Ennis reported that he needs an article for this coming week. Mr. Sipperly suggested that we do one on the National Trail. Mr. Sipperly reported that Kevin Case, who is the project manager, might already have information to supply. Mr. Sipperly will contact Mr. Case and have him contact Mr. Ennis, first thing tomorrow.

Writing letters to the editors regarding the power lines was discussed. The Siting Council public hearing was discussed. Ellen and Sheila will speak. Ruth-Ann will be contacted for some information. Mr. Sipperly will contact the papers to do an article prompting people to attend the meeting.

3. Open Space Status

Mr. Sipperly reported on the various panels and that we closed on Vernlund's properties. The Wesleyan and Peterson properties still need to be finalized.

Mr. Sipperly reported that a developer has offered for free, a parcel of land adjacent to the golf course off Atkins Street. Mr. Sipperly will send the information out. Members of the open space subcommittee requested permission to walk it.

4. NU Transmission Lines

Mr. Sipperly handed out some fact sheets regarding this issue. The hearing will be on February 24th at the High School in Middletown. The Commission was urged to attend as well as get the word out to residents.

5. Borelli Farms

Mr. Sipperly went to the Common Council and they approved the concept of the lease. Mr. Sipperly reported that it has to go to the P&Z for an 8-24 referral also.

6. RFP for farming open space

This item was tabled due to the city attorney's office legal opinion on whether or not this can be done.

F. New Business

1. Earth Day – April 22, 2004

Discussion ensued options for activities and events.

2. Spring Hike

Spring Hike should be done around Earth Day. Discussion ensued about having an Earth Day picnic at (for instance) Guida Farms. It was decided that we would do a hike at the Swartzkopf/Daniels property on Saturday, April 25, 2004 rain/shine, at 1:00 p.m.

G. Correspondence

Mr. Sipperly reported on a National Trails meeting here in Middletown on April 22, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 208.

H. Member Forum

Mike Ennis discussed the idea of using a bus for viewing our open space parcels. This will be looked into.

Kate Miller discussed the “letter box concept”.

Jane Brawerman wants double-sided copies. Let’s save trees! She also reported on shrub sale, by Conservation District, the annual report of District and newsletter they developed.

Ellen Lukens is working on a list of accomplishments.

Kate requested recycled paper for the trail guide.

Conservation Commission requested agendas for Wetlands and P&Z meetings.

Motion: To go into executive session at 9:05 p.m.
Moved by M. Ennis/seconded by K. Coley
Approved unanimously

The Commission came out of executive session at 10:00 p.m.

Motion: That open space subcommittee is recommending parcels two (2) and three (3) to the full commission and that these parcels to the Common Council for purchase.

Moved by M. Ennis/seconded by J. Fortuna

Much discussion ensued

Mike Ennis & Jim Fortuna – yes, Kate Miller abstained and the rest voted no.

Motion fails.

Motion: That the Conservation Commission present to the Council a description of the open space process, enumerating the five (5) parcels, the ranking of the parcels, the five (5) appraisals and because of the amount of money still remaining based on the open space subcommittee's recommendations, that parcels 2 & 3 be considered for purchase and we remain committed to the acquisition of Parcel 1, 4 and 5 as resources permits.

Moved by E. Lukens/seconded by M. Ennis
Approved unanimously with K. Miller abstaining.

Motion: To adjourn at 10:15 p.m.
Moved by J. Fortuna/seconded by H. Reid
Approved unanimously