

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 12, 1992

PRESENT

R. Klattenberg, Chairman
E. Patton
J. Aucaigne
A. Siniscalchi
K. Coley
M. Norwood
C. Harris
J. Chace
E. Kelsey
M. Giamei

ABSENT

D. Goff
J. Brawerman
L. Tunderman
E. Roberts

ALSO PRESENT

C. Wilcox, Staff

Chairman R. Klattenberg called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. in Room B-20 of the Municipal Building. After calling the role, he seated J. Chace and M. Norwood as regular voting members. Each member gave a short self-introduction for the benefit of the newer members of the Commission.

Minutes

The minutes of December 12, 1991 were discussed, corrected and upon a motion by C. Harris, seconded by A. Siniscalchi, were accepted as corrected. All voted in favor except M. Giamei, J. Chace, M. Norwood and J. Aucaigne, all of whom abstained.

The minutes of January 9, 1992 were discussed, corrected and upon a motion by C. Harris, seconded by M. Giamei, were accepted as corrected. All voted in favor except E. Kelsey, M. Norwood and J. Aucaigne, all of whom abstained.

The minutes of February 13, 1992 were discussed, corrected and upon a motion by C. Harris, seconded by M. Giamei, were accepted as corrected. All voted in favor except E. Patton and J. Aucaigne, both of whom abstained.

Officer's and Committee Reports

A. Siniscalchi noted that both the State Health Department and DEP were concerned about the alarming trends in the rabies epidemic. It had spread east of the Housatonic; and it may be only a matter of months before it would reach Middletown. He strongly urged everyone to vaccinate their pets. There is a vaccine for people, but it is available only for researchers.

R. Klattenberg reported on three topics: Budget; Environmental Planner; and a speaking engagement. The budget has disappeared until July 1st and, therefore, cannot support the larger donations recommended by the Commission like ERT and SCS. M. Norwood commented that budget hearings were coming up, and these are now in Bill Warner's budget. (A. Siniscalchi felt this should be a future agenda item.) The Environmental Planner position closes February 28th and prospects will be interviewed by an outside panel of peers. R. Klattenberg further announced he was asked to give a 20 minute presentation on Conservation and Open Space to the Westfield Residents group on April 27th.

Conservation Commission: 3/12/92 p.2.

Natural Resources Committee: No report

City Commissions Liaison: No report

Open Space Preservation Committee: A. Siniscalchi noted they were doing stewardship plans and planning to review new sites and had about twelve new requests for review to date.

Lamentation Mountain Committee: No report

Park Liaison Committee: A. Siniscalchi reported that they had an initial meeting where they heard a presentation by aeromodelers to use an open space parcel. This item was forwarded to Park & Rec. Items discussed that will remain on their agenda are: 1) what needs to be done to preserve and protect the parcels (posting, rules, etc.); 2) Trail systems - especially interconnecting with other City properties; 3) use of special funds set up for maintenance; and 4) what to do with the barn on the Coughlin property. Their next meeting is March 26th and every third Thursday at Park & Rec. Members are Ernie Garofoli, Nick Salafia and Peter Cannata from Park & Rec, and Alan Siniscalchi, David Goff and Melanie Giamei from Conservation. They are asking for volunteers to help with planning for the use of the barn, stewardship plans and trail systems.

Old Business:

Workshops: T. Tondro had responded about the "Fees in Lieu" regulations and the Commission felt these should be forwarded to the City Commissions Liaison Committee. E. Kelsey asked about her questions about mandates. M. Giamei noted the Commission is only advisory and should not get bogged down with these questions. R. Klattenberg suggested mailing them to T. Tondro. A. Siniscalchi felt the City Attorney's office should look at them first.

Aquifer Protection and Pesticide Applications: E. Patton reported letters would be forthcoming.

DOT Route 9 Erosion: C. Harris noted the problem was worse than ever; he had spoken to DOT. E. Patton asked what Conservation should do about this, since it is a wetlands and State problem. R. Klattenberg and C. Harris agreed to keep it on the agenda for one more month.

Subcommittees: J. Aucaigne was assigned to two subcommittees and will let R. Klattenberg know if the assignment is feasible.

Priority Rating System: A. Siniscalchi indicated no report for this meeting and asked to keep this on the agenda for next month.

Mattabassett Non-Point Pollution Project: C. Harris has been in touch with Ann Hadley who is asking for some help with the project. He also attended a conference on February 25th relating to the issues involved here, noting that he had a lot of information from the Anacostic River project in Washington, which will be a good model for the Mattabassett. He also noted that, in some ways, the CSO projects were doing more harm because the storm drainage now goes directly to the rivers without any treatment and the catch basins are not adequately equipped to filter out non-point pollutants.

Conservation Commission: Minutes 3/12/92 p.3

The Commission took a break at 8:32 p.m. and reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

New Business:

Open Space Preservation Evaluation Process: Upon a motion by M. Giamei, seconded by K. Coley, it was voted unanimously to go into executive session at 8:47 p.m. according to Section 1-18a(e)(4) of the Connecticut General Statutes. Upon a motion by M. Giamei, seconded by J. Chace and voted unanimously, the Commission came out of executive session at 9:28 p.m. For the record, the commission reported that, while in executive session, they voted to send a memo to the Mayor asking for a discussion of the Open Space Evaluation Process.

Legal Advertisement: A. Siniscalchi asked that this item be removed from the agenda until the Open Space Committee feels it is appropriate. E. Kelsey asked about zoning for parks. C. Wilcox will check to see if parks are uses by right in residential zones, and what requirements are on the books for notification of adjacent landowners.

Subdivision Regulations: R. Klattenberg noted there was nothing new yet. Planning & Zoning is reviewing the latest draft and a public hearing is scheduled for next month. L. Tundermann will call a Committee meeting when the final draft is ready.

Correspondence

(Environment 2000 request for revisions was passed around.) C. Wilcox asked the Commission if they would do some guided tours of the Open Space parcels as part of the City's Earth Day observances. Several members of the Commission agreed to put these together.

Public Forum: No one from the public wished to speak.


Member Forum: E. Kelsey asked about the origins of Environment 2000. R. Klattenberg and E. Patton responded it was an environmental plan revised every five years; Connecticut's plan has been in existence 20 years; and every year, DEP's efforts are measured against it.

K. Coley had Pingo information she wished forwarded to the Mayor.

E. Kelsey reported on a situation of clearcutting in a wetland on Route 66 near the Crestline Motel. She thought it would affect a tributary to the Coginchaug River. C. Wilcox will check with W. Kuehn or G. Lapadula to see if it is in their purview.

There being no further business, C. Harris moved to adjourn at 9:54 p.m. Motion was seconded by M. Giamei and voted unanimously.

Corrected & Accepted


Cynthia G. Wilcox, project officer

May 14, 1992