

**MINUTES OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 14, 2002**

MINUTES

PRESENT

N. Kiniry
G. Rankin
S. Zito
S. Lowe
S. Stoane
J. Fortuna
E. Lukens
H. Reid
K. Coley @ 7:45 p.m.
D. O'Brien

ABSENT

J. Beatty
L. Tundermann
L. Holder
J. Brawerman

OTHERS PRESENT

J. Sipperly, Staff

A. Call to Order

S. Stoane, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:44 P.M. in Room 208, in the Municipal Building. The roll was called and a quorum was determined. S. Stoane asked people to get to the meeting on time.

B. Elections

The Chairman opened elections and nominations.

E. Lukens moved the existing slate of officers

S. Stoane, Chairman; L. Tundermann, Vice-Chair, J. Sipperly, Secretary

J. Fortuna seconded.

No other nominations were reported.

Nominations were closed.

Vote: Approve unanimously

B. Minutes

Minutes of January 3, 2002 were reviewed.

Under roll call delete the word “not” near determined.

Page 2, 7th paragraph change close to alone

Note that James Fortuna and G. Rankin were absent.

Motion: To approve the minutes as amended

Moved by N. Kiniry\seconded by K. Coley

Approved unanimously, with K. Coley, G. Rankin, and J. Fortuna abstaining

C. Officers and Committee Reports

S. Stoane reported that Beth Lapin who is a naturalist and writer will be helping with the trail guide. She will be paid by the Planning, Conservation and Development Office.

Mr. Sipperly reported that he and Marcy Klattenberg will be marking trails at the Daniels and Schwartzkopf properties.

D. Old Business

1. Plan of Conservation and Development

Mr. Sipperly reported that the hearings will be planned for the month of May most likely.

The Plan has been edited approximately, however the maps have not been drastically changed to depict more open space. This can be discussed during the hearing process. Meeting notices will be sent.

2. The Mattabasset Management Plan

Mr. Sipperly reported that Paul Wentworth was hired through a grant to implement this plan in Cromwell and in Middletown. A committee will be formed to assist in this endeavor comprised of one or two different commissioners in town. A meeting will be held some time in April.

3. I-3 Zone (Maromas Area)

The Planning & Zoning Commission will be modifying the uses in this zone. When this is being completed the Conservation Commission will be contacted for input in the process.

4. Trail Guide

Sheila Stoane reported that Beth Lapin is on board assisting with the trail guide. She has received all of the information and is compiling the maps and descriptions. Mr. Sipperly confirmed with the prison that they will still do the printing and set-up.

5. Trap Rock Ridge Protection Regulations

Mr. Sipperly will distribute these regulations at the next meeting.

6. Public Relations

The environmental summit will be around earth day the end of April. Commissions will be invited for a social time to get to know each other. The Rockfall Foundation was interested in assisting with the planning. Nancy Kiniry has agreed to help plan this event.

7. Kleen Energy Systems Project, River Road

Mr. Sipperly explained the status of this project and that it was approved locally and will be submitted to the Siting Council soon.

8. Other

Farm Report

E. O'Brien put together a narrative report.

There are 157 separate parcels recognized by the tax assessor as farmland, totaling 1,974 acres.

Average parcel is 12.5 acres.

Largest parcel is 130 acres, Kelsey Farms

2nd largest is 54 acres, smallest is ¼ of an acre

17 people own 30 or more acres, represents 839 acres or 42% of total 1,974 acres.

C. O'Brien will develop a written report on this data for distribution.

The idea of an article for the press on this date was discussed.

A letter should be written to the state legislation regarding a bill for farmland.

Motion: To draft a letter to support the increased funding to the Farm Land Trust Program.

Moved by E. Lukens\seconded by H. Reid

Approved unanimously

George Street – The Conservation Commission will investigate into regulations regarding clear cutting of land. Tom Odell from CACIWAC may have some examples from other towns. Work on this with Urban Forestry.

F. New business

1. Earth Day Celebration

A hike could be planned for one of the new land acquisitions.

Swartzkopf or Daniels. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

2. Other

An article in the Hartford Courant regarding fines for violations of wetland land was distributed by K. Coley. Mr. Sipperly explained that the Wetland Commission is drafting new regulations to take that into account.

G. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

Moved by K. Coley; seconded by E. Lukens

Approved unanimously

