

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

APRIL 10, 1997

PRESENT

A. Siniscalchi
J. Beatty
K. Humphrey
M. Knight
J. Czuba
Fortuna
K. Coley
J. Brawerman
E. Roberts (7:30)

ALSO PRESENT

L. Bowers
Larry Shobe
(Wes. Hills Assoc.)

ABSENT

D. Filer
L. Tundermann
M. DeRosier
S. Stoane

J.

A. Chairman Alan Siniscalchi opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

A quorum was present.

1. Martin Knight seconded by Katchen Coley made a motion to add agenda item: Wesleyan Hills Elderly Housing proposal. All were in favor.

Linda Bowers presented the draft plan that was available from Hill Development. Larry Shobe discussed some of the Association's concerns.

The Commission decided to follow up at the site planning application stage.

B. Minutes

Katchen Coley seconded by Earle Roberts made a motion to accept as amended: March 10th Minutes add: 1. Agenda item - Tricon Industrial Subdivision to be moved to the beginning.

All were in favor of those present with James Fortuna, John Czuba and Jane Brawerman abstaining.

James Fortuna seconded by Earle Roberts made a motion to accept the minutes of March 13, 1997.

All were in favor with Jane Brawerman, Jonathan Beatty, Marty Knight and Alan Siniscalchi abstaining.

C. Officers\Committee Report

1. Officers Report

Linda Bowers noted that on 4\11\97 Senator Dodd will hold a press conference at 10:30 a.m. at Harborpark re: National Heritage River Designation. Members were asked to attend to show their support.

Linda Bowers mentioned non-funding of canoe trail proposal by Conti Wildlife Refuge.

2. Open Space Preservation - A committee meeting was held on using condensed version of criteria.

Site visits will be scheduled.

3. Natural Resource Inventory - is inviting the Conservation Commission to participate in working with the National Resource Database in identifying critical habitat areas.

A computer map of sites is available from DEP

4. City Commissions Liaison

Tricon Industrial Subdivision public hearing is still open and continued to April 23, 1997.

Earle Roberts will investigate the Wesleyan Hills application.

A meeting will be scheduled when the site plan comes in.

5. Park Liaison Committee - no report

6. CACIWC - Alan Siniscalchi reported they will be trying to increase educational opportunities for Inland Wetland and Watercourse Agency members.

7. Mattabasset River Watershed Association - The Association has become incorporated. They will be planning a clean-up and a first annual meeting. A Mattabasset River canoe trip is being planned for late June.

D. Old Business

1. Destruction of trails from off-road vehicles.

Alan Siniscalchi and Linda Bowers will revise a draft ordinance. The Commission will pursue working with Park & Recreation and the Police Department to obtain their support before going to the Ordinance Study Committee.

2. Open Space Jurisdiction

A letter was sent to the Mayor re: 1.) Proposed Blue Blaze Trail spur and 2.) Harvesting Timber at Guida Farm Conservation Area. It is hoped that a meeting will be scheduled with relevant commission representatives.

They discussed management responsibility of the Nature Garden.

3. Ridgetop protection

City Commission Liaison will take on this project.

4. Earth Day

Friends of Long Hill Estate will be holding a "Daffodil Day" on Saturday April 26, 1997. Guided walks and composting demonstration will be available.

A press release emphasizing Earth Day will be done by the Planning & Zoning office.

WMRD will possibly do a public service announcement.

Alan Siniscalchi, Katchen Coley and John Czuba can staff a table.

Earle Roberts discussed putting together a photography contest. It will be announced and distributed at the "Daffodil Day."

New Business

1. Brochure

Alan Siniscalchi will work on incorporating photography into the text.

Earle Roberts volunteered for McCutcheon mapping.

F. Correspondence

1. Letter from Bethany Conservation Commission in reference to important environment legislation. No action necessary.

G. Public Forum - None

H. Member Forum

Marty Knight noted that on Wednesday April 30th from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Daniel's Farm, there will be a grand opening of Great Strides Therapeutic Riding Program.

Jane Brawerman noted that the Middlesex Land Trust is sponsoring a raffle to raise money to pay the mortgage for Mica Ledges Land Trust property.

Earle Roberts reported on the article about the golf course planning and environmental issues in the April Smithsonian issue.

I. James Fortuna seconded by Marty Knight made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

All were in favor.