

**MINUTES OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2001**

MINUTES

PRESENT

J. Fortuna
G. Rankin
J. Beatty
K. Coley
S. Stoane
H. Reid
L. Holder
J. Brawerman
D. O'Brien
L. Tunderman
J. Killian
M. Graves @ 7:40 p.m.

ABSENT

J. Bagley
K. Holden
E. Lukens

OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Sipperly, Staff
Caroline Killian
Geoff Steadman
Tom Chace,
Chairman
Harbor Improvement

A. Call to Order

1. Roll Call

Chairperson S. Stoane called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. in the Community Room at the Police Department on Main Street. A roll was called and a quorum was determined. All members in attendance are full voting members tonight.

B. Presentation of Harbor-Management Plan by the Harbor Improvement Agency

J. Sipperly reported that he is also the staff for the Harbor Improvement Agency (HIA) and also stated that the Harbor Improvement Agency has a final draft of the Harbor Management Plan that is being presented to Boards and Commissions for support. Mr. Sipperly introduced Tom Chace the Chairman of the HIA. Mr. Chace reported that this is actively on the Harbor Improvement Agency's agenda since 1988 in the form of a study. Mr. Chace stated that this began when the DEP was enacting the Harbor Management Act which gives communities along the shoreline more control, over safety, boating, and recreational activities on the water. This also applies to large river towns such as Middletown's Connecticut River. This study pools together competing uses for the waterfront.

Geoff Steadman, a consultant for the HIA, reported that in 1997 the council agreed to have the HIA do a Harbor Management Plan. We have also been side tracked working on the American Heritage River Initiative Action Plan.

We first described the jurisdiction, from Mattabassett River to boundary with Haddam. The HIA looked at the waterfront, environmental conditions, recommended uses and identified applicable laws. We then listed policies, goals and objectives. These opportunities did not commit public funds it was intended to establish a formal city policy.

This plan doesn't change the authority of any agency. Open Space issues are mentioned such as Wilcox Island and the "Old Chicken Farm" which the state will be deeding to the City. Mr. Steadman reported that this city is unique because it contains a very urban waterfront and downtown business district close to the river. In the 1700's was the largest port in CT. Nine miles of river frontage is also available.

Mr. Steadman stated that we are now giving a slideshow and presentation highlighting the details of the plan so that the Council and DEP will adopt the plan.

Geoff gave a slide presentation. The Commission received a copy of the AIA plan which will be distributed.

C. Minutes

March 8, 2001

Motion: To approve the minutes as presented

Moved by J. Beatty\seconded by L. Holder

Approved unanimously with J. Fortuna, L. Holder, and Len Tundermann abstaining.

D. Officers and Committee Reports

S. Stoane indicated that everything will be covered on the agenda.

E. Old Business

Motion: To move item F.2. to this part of the agenda.

Moved by K. Coley\seconded by J. Beatty

Approved unanimously

Chairman opened the floor to nominations for Vice-Chairman

Three nominations are standing for this position from the last meeting, and the election was tabled

Motion: To take the existing nominations off the record.

Moved by L. Tundermann\seconded by G. Rankin

Approved unanimously

Motion: To nominate J. Beatty

Moved by J. Rankin

Motion: To nominate J. Brawerman\seconded by L. Tundermann

Motion: To nominate L. Tundermann\seconded by L. Holder

Moved by J. Fortuna

Motion: To close nominations

Moved by J. Beatty\seconded by J. Fortuna

Approved unanimously

The consensus was to have paper ballots and let staff control the ballot counting.

Tally 6 voting for L. Tundermann

4 voting for J. Brawerman

1 abstention

Congratulations to L. Tundermann

Old Business

1. Open Space Brochure

Mr. Sipperly stated that the Middlesex Community College has a student from the Rockfall grant to work on the brochure. The maps formatting GIS need to be converted to a MAC system. L. Tundermann suggested that he may have information to address this conversion.

2. Plan of Conservation and Development

The Planning and Zoning Commission has not determined what will be the next steps regarding this issue. There is no activity on this issue presently.

3. CRISP Document

Mr. Sipperly reported that the DECD is reviewing all the testimony received at the public hearing. They are answering questions and will submit a revised report based on the testimony received.

4. Other

The Mattabassett Plan should be added to the next agenda.

F. New Business

1. I-3 Committee

The ERT request was approved by the RC & D Councils. K. Coley will work and send out letters of permission to gain access to the properties by team members.

2. Election of Vice Chair (previously moved on agenda)

3. Open Space Grant

Motion: To go into executive session to talk about land acquisition

Moved by L. Holder\seconded by G. Rankin

Approved unanimously

The Commission came out of executive session at 8:35 p.m.

Motion: To select the Wilcox property off Atkins Street for acquisition in the DEP Spring 2001 grant round moved by L. Tundermann\seconded by G. Rankin

Approved unanimously

4. Arbor Day Celebration – April 27, 2001

Mr. Sipperly reported that a Heritage River Birch tree will be planted at the Arboretum for the 350th Anniversary and Arbor Day and a tree will be dedicated to Dr. Cerritelli on the South Green. Refreshments will be served. All are invited to attend.

5. Metacomet Ridge Celebration – Governor Rowland

Mr. Sipperly learned that the state DEP and Governor's office will be holding a special event to celebrate the Metacomet Ridge Compact in Canton between May 12th and May 16th. More information will be coming.

G. Correspondence – Miscellaneous received

H. Public Forum

No one from the public was in attendance

I. Member Forum

J. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

Approved unanimously