

Conservation Commission
MINUTES
Regular Meeting of April 12, 2007

Members Present

Sheila Stoane
Ellen Lukens
Howard Reid
Katchen Coley
Jane Brawerman
Steven Ladd
David O'Brien

Members Absent

Norm Zimmer
Len Tunderman
Jim Fortuna
Michael Ennis
Nancy Kiniry
Kate Miller

Others Present

Matt Dodge, Secretary

A. Call to Order

Sheila Stoane called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm in Room B-20 in the Municipal Building.

B. Roll Call

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

C. Public Forum

No members of the public were present

D. Minutes of February 8, 2007

Motion to approve February minutes was moved by Jane Brawerman and seconded by Stephen Ladd. Approved unanimously

Minutes of March 8, 2007

A discussion ensued. Motion to approve minutes with revisions was moved by Ellen Lukens and seconded by Howard Reid. Approved unanimously.

E. Old Business

1. Trail Guide

Postpone addendum until September.

2. Public Relations – Conservation Corner

- There is a sufficient amount of articles until June.
- Kate's article was published in the Chronicle
- More articles are welcome
- Ellen will get Dave Colberg to write chronicle article for June
- Ellen will write an article on Maromas or Farmland option or will get Jeff Martin to write one.

3. Open Space Committee

- Common Council approved purchase of lot #19 (Morelli parcel) on Stantack Road for \$170,000 – closing to take place next week

- There is \$55,000 left in the fund for Open Space
- Bill Bergan will go ahead with A-2 surveys of Flemming and Daniels – there is no DEP list according to DEP personnel
- Remaining concerns of Bill Bergan L.S. conducting A-2 surveys. He must follow federal guidelines. Since there have been issues in the past, will DEP accept his appraisals?
- Guida Conservation Area – Coordinating site visit with Marcy Klattenberg to determine extent of motorized vehicle issues – scheduled for April 15.
- Middletown Nature Gardens – gravel runoff in rear of parking lot - Parks and Rec fixed. Vandalism (spray paint on benches and torn down/damaged bird houses as well as damaged bridge), ruts (scattered, variety of sizes) – notified Parks and Rec.

4. Open-Space Signs

Matt will photograph signs as examples to use to determine design of new signs.

- We have 2 signs – “No Motorized Vehicles” – John Milardo will make more. He just needs to know how many – Parks & Rec will install them.
- Added Open Space Map, Trail Map, Open Space update and my contact info to Guida and Tynan sign boards
- Daniels-Schwartzkopf – site visit with Ellen – determine where signs should be placed and how many.

5. Bio Blitz

- David O’Brien will man the Conservation Commission’s exhibit
- The exhibit will include open space maps (Matt will make maps), project Green Lawn, trail guides, pictures, Middletown nature gardens, copies of 2 conservation area maps (Wadsworth SP, Mansion Grounds)
- Brochure – Katchen Coley will discuss with Bill Warner the possibility of incorporating NEAT in a “Special Program” for youths (15 years and under)
- City will provide bus transportation
- PA System reserves
- Photos of Conservation areas will be taken as things “green up” a bit

6. Park Steward Program

Katchen Coley asked Ron and Marcy if they would continue watching Guida Conservation area. They replied that they will.

7. Matt to check on organic lawn care and contact Kim O’Rourke in public works.

F. New Business

Reviewed Middle Street Development (Millennium site)

G. Correspondence

- Reviewed letters from Mr. Donahue
- Matt will find out how much land along Newfield Street is protected and what is developable.
- Matt will author letter to Mr. Donahue on behalf of the Conservation Commission explaining the Commission’s sympathy for his concerns, but the Commission is unable to provide assistance at this time.

H. Member Forum

- Jane Brawerman shared her brochure "The Hows and Whys of Organic Lawn Care" to be discussed on May 22nd at the Russell Library.
- Ellen Lukens gave a summary of the American Farmland Trust meeting and said at least eight (8) folks from Middletown were in attendance. Jane Brawerman said there were more.
- Matt will update the Commission at the next meeting regarding the Farm Viability Grant work with Stephen and Terri.

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:50 PM was moved by Stephen Ladd and seconded by Howard Reid. Approved unanimously.