

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting of May 8, 2003

Members Present

Nancy Kiniry
James Fortuna
Ellen Lukens
Katchen Coley
Dave O'Brien
Mike Ennis
Howard Reid
Bob Nolan
Jane Brawerman
Liz Holder
Sheila Stoane

Members Absent

Others Present

James Sipperly, staff
Laura Goldhammer
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A. Call to order

Sheila Stoane, chairman called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. in Room 208 of the Municipal Building. The roll was called and a quorum was determined. All members are voting members tonight.

Bob Nolan, a new Commissioner was introduced and welcomed by everyone.

B. Minutes

Minutes of April 10, 2003 were reviewed. The minutes were reviewed and several typos were identified.

Motion: To accept the minutes as presented understanding that the typos would be corrected.

Moved by Liz Holder / seconded by J. Fortuna

Approved unanimously

C. Megan Haney – Organic Farming Co-op

Megan reported on her progress, goals and objectives for initiating an organic farming co-op. Megan reported that she met again with Ms. Vernlund and a two acre farm is being considered there. Mr. Sipperly explained that he has taken her to open space parcels owned by Middletown and brought her to some existing farms, Jablonski, Vernlund, Schieman, etc.

D. Officers and Committee Reports

E. Old Business

1. The Mattabassett Management Plan

Dave O'Brien has given Mr. Sipperly some information to type up and will be distributed when it is finished. Signs for the river need to be installed.

2. Sheila Stoane reported that we still need some pictures and some art work to use as fillers in the book. Sheila will contact Beth for an update.

3. Public Relations – Conservation Corner

Mike Ennis reported that he is writing the next article for the Chronicle. Discussion ensued regarding the remaining articles to be written and who would author them. K. Coley is doing one on invasive species.

4. Open Space Status

Mr. Sipperly reported that the Attorney General's Office is pleased with the information that was forwarded to them from J. Sipperly through Tim Lynch. The easements to Margarite Road extension has been worked out.

Mr. Sipperly reported that the A-2 maps for Wesleyan will be prepared and that the Peterson Oil Property Building will be demolished next month.

5. DEP Open Space 2003

K. Coley reported on the fiscal shape of the State relative to future grant rounds. It does not look promising. Legislatively, alerts have been issued and people are lobbying to put some money in the program.

6. Other

F. New Business

1. Farmland Protection Program

Mr. Sipperly reported that Mike Ennis has been doing a lot of work on this. The applications are for Graves and Krikoulski., however it appears that Krikoulski has withdrawn his participation. He may reconsider at a later time.

Discussion to work with Merriam instead

Motion: If Krikoulski backs out we should pursue the Merriam Tree Farm off Boston Road.

Moved by E. Lukens / seconded by L. Holder
Approved unanimously

G. Public Forum

Laura from Wesleyan reported that she met with V. P. of Wesleyan regarding having a farm on Wesleyan property. Mary Thomas and Nate Like also from Wesleyan discussed the concept of a community garden similar to on at Vassar College. Community supported agriculture is the concept and volunteers work with a program. Mr. Sipperly recommended that perhaps the Conservation Commission can form a subcommittee to work on this.

Jane Brawerman discussed the Backyard Stream Guide that will be mailed to stream side landowners. She would like volunteers to help with the mailings. Sheila will send a cover letter that will be sent with the guide.

Motion: To authorize the chair to send out a cover letter on their behalf

Moved by E. Lukens / seconded by K. Coley
Approved unanimously

Jane left at 8:05 p.m.

H. Correspondence

I. Member Forum

Katchen Coley discussed the bond commission's duties relative to the open space fund.

Motion: To authorize Katchen Coley to draft a letter thanking them for their support and for future support.

Moved by L. Holder / seconded by E. Lukens
Approved unanimously

Mike Ennis is working on a list of phone numbers and e-mails, etc.

J. Adjournment

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

Moved by J. Fortuna / seconded by N. Kiniry
Approved unanimously