

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

May 8, 1997

PRESENT

K. Humphrey
K. Coley
A. Siniscalchi
D. Filer
L.Tunderman
Knight
E. Roberts
Fortuna

ALSO PRESENT

ABSENT

J. Czuba
J. Brawerman
M. DeRosier
S. Stoane
J. Beatty M.

J.

A. Chairman Alan Siniscalchi called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m. in Room B-18 in the Municipal Building

A new member was appointed, Susan Aiudi, who may be present tonight.

B. Minutes of April 10, 1997 regular meeting.

Motion: To accept the minutes as presented

Moved by E. Roberts; seconded by K. Humphrey; approved unanimously with L. Tunderman and D. Filer abstaining

April 10, 1997 Open Space Preservation Minutes

Motion: To approve as presented; moved by K. Humphrey; seconded by J. Fortuna; approved unanimously with E. Roberts abstaining

C. Officers and Committee Reports

A. Siniscalchi stated that he is saddened with Linda Bowers departure.

A reception was held last week and a tree will be planted on her behalf.

K. Coley stated that there was a letter in the Hartford Courant expressing what Linda Bowers has done for the Urban Forestry Commission.

A notice was placed in the paper and a number of qualified applicants have applied.

An outside committee will interview the qualified applicants and then the finalists will be interviewed by the commission chairman.

Open Space Preservation

The committee met on April 10, 1997 and reviewed a compacted list of criteria to be used for evaluating properties.

Natural Resource Inventory - no report

City Commissions Liaison

Mr. Roberts reported that Wesleyan Hills application to rezone was rejected by Planning and Zoning.

A brief discussion developed regarding elderly housing.

Tricon has been approved.

Mr. Roberts discussed his view of the reasons for the decision by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Park Liaison Committee - no report

CACIWC - no report

Mattabasset River Watershed Association - no report

Mr. Roberts questioned the policies regarding open space parcels in general.

A discussion ensued regarding open space jurisdiction and management.

D. Old Business

1. Mr. Siniscalchi and Ms. Bowers have drafted some regulations for consideration and will soon be distributed.

2. Open Space Jurisdiction and Management

A discussion was held previously by Ms. Bowers, the Mayor and W. Downing

A long discussion ensued regarding Urban Forestry Commission jurisdiction with trees on public land. Park and Recreation also has jurisdiction and Management responsibilities as well.

Discussion also occurred regarding the Long Hill Estates property and its acquisition and management.

3. Ridgetop Protection

There was discussion about Higby mountain and Lamentation Mountain falling under the protection regulations.

The commission has made motions in the past and have endorsed this proposal.

Mr. Roberts stated that he likes the draft regulations and what the regulations accomplish will be good for Middletown.

Motion: To move forward to change the plan of development or develop an ordinance for traprock ridge protection and work with neighboring towns.

Moved by: K. Coley; seconded by J. Fortuna

Discussion

L. Tunderman questioned the need for such a motion.

Approved unanimously

New Business

1. Brochure

Sheila Stoane is working on the brochure and getting photos to be used.

The photo contest and the brochure will be discussed concurrently.

E. Roberts stated that his committee decided to state “awards to be announced.”

A discussion ensued regarding who will work to get prizes for the contest.

The awards will be slated for the end of June.

Mr. Roberts asked anyone to donate a simple prize.

Mr. Roberts asked everyone to get one prize and let the winners choose the prizes based on 1st, 2nd and 3rd etc.

Mr. Roberts said people would report to him directly regarding prizes.

3. Open Space Preservation process update

This was already discussed earlier in the meeting.

F. Correspondence

Various newsletters from environmental organizations were distributed.

Mr. Roberts received correspondence from the Harbor Improvement Agency about Harbor Park and recommended K. Humphrey attend a meeting to represent the Commission.

G. Public Forum - no members of the public present

H. Member Forum

K. Humphrey stated he could not participate in getting prizes for the photo contest.

Motion to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.

Moved by: J. Fortuna; seconded by D. Filer; approved unanimously