

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting of May 13, 2004

Members Present

Ellen Lukens
Len Tundermann
Jim Fortuna
Bob Nolan
Howard Reid
Kate Miller
Mike Ennis
Steve Ladd

Members Absent

Sheila Stoane
Gerald Rankin
Nancy Kiniry
Jane Brawerman
Katchen Coley
Davie O'Brien

Others Present

Jim Sipperly, Staff
C. Jablonski

- A. Call to order
1. Roll Call

Vice-Chairman Len Tunderman call the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in Room 208 in the Municipal Building. Sheila Stoane, chairman, will not be present tonight.

- B. Public Forum

No one from the public wished to speak

- C. Minutes

The minutes of April 2004 were tabled.

- D. Officers and Committee Reports

Mr. Sipperly reported on the South Cove Project. Channel 8 news will air a segment on Middletown on May 21st at 6:00 p.m. during the news.

Mike Ennis reported on the open space acquisition status. The open space subcommittee is shifting gears from Hayn and Hubbard to go to the Wilcox piece.

Motion: That we accept the recommendation of the subcommittee to acquire the Wilcox Estate parcel off Atkins Street.

Moved by: Ellen Lukens and seconded by Mike Ennis

Approved unanimously

Mike Ennis reported that another parcel was offered to the City (for free) off Pinehurst Court, off Atkins Street. Maps were looked at and access may be a problem. The Middlesex Land Trust and/or the Mattabeset Audubon Society is also interested in it. The recommendation from the open space subcommittee is not to accept the offer at this time.

Motion: That we follow the recommendation of the open space subcommittee consensus (no quorum) not recommend this acquisition due to the fact that there is other interest from other groups.

Moved by Ellen Lukens and seconded by Bob Nolan.

Approved unanimously with the amendment that it may be revisited if the other groups choose not to acquire it.

The subcommittee also discussed the \$3 million bond. Ellen Lukens called Ron to check on the wording of the bond council. Apparently Ellen Lukens reported that the language is tight and that the language holds and cannot be revisited or amended.

Purchasing options were discussed, i.e. about paying for land for say 1 – 3 years to keep it from being developed and then purchase it later.

E. Old Business

1. Trail Guide

Mr. Sipperly reminded everyone to get the maps in as soon as possible. *This is crunch time!*

2. Public Relations – Conservation Corner

Mike Ennis reported that we missed the last Chronicle deadline and the Middletown Press is due in a few days. No one had an article ready.

Mr. Sipperly will contact Trish Bradley, the Citizens for Responsible Energy II regarding the power lines. She may have information already to go.

3. Guida Farms hasn't been **phoned** to anyone's knowledge. Mr. Sipperly will check with them on this.

4. Transmission Lines – NU's upgrade

Mr. Sipperly reported on the proceedings of the Siting Council and that the House Bill was approved requiring the lines to be underground near residential areas and daycares, etc.

F. New Business

1. High School

Mr. Sipperly reported on the status of the High School. The plans will eliminate tennis courts and ball fields and the plans will lessen the impacts on the wetlands. The plans will be resubmitted in July or August.

G. Correspondence

None

H. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Moved by J. Fortuna and seconded by Bob Nolan

Approved unanimously