

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

May 13, 1999

PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

ABSENT

L. Tundermann
A. Siniscalchi
Stoane
Beatty
J. Fortuna
M. Zimmitti
M. DeRosier
K. Humphrey
M. Graves (student liaison)
J. Brawerman @ 7:30 p.m.

J. Sipperly, staff

J. Marhevka
K. Coley S.
 J.

A. Call to order

Chairman L. Tundermann called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in Room 208 of the Municipal Building

1. Roll Call

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

B. Minutes of April 8, 1999

Minutes were distributed at the meeting and the commission would like to have more time to review them.

Motion: To defer the minutes of April 8, 1999 to the next meeting.

moved by E. Lukens\seconded by M. DeRosier

approved unanimously

M. DeRosier stated she would like the minutes sent with the packet. Mr. Sipperly concurred.

C. Officers and Committee Reports

L. Tundermann welcomed Matt Graves to the Commission as a member of the High School Vo-Ag program. Mr. Graves will serve as the liaison to the High School . Mr. Graves reported that he is part of the Natural Resources Program and is interested in managing natural habitats and conservation in general.

Mr. Siniscalchi reported that he has been contacted by some of his neighbors and residents of the Westfield area about the clear cutting of trees on Jeff Pierce's property on Mount Higby. It appears to Mr. Siniscalchi that Mr. Pierce is cutting the most sensitive area of the ridge, allowing some logs to fall into the face of the tallus slope. A discussion ensued on the tree cutting practices.

The Commission agreed to send Mr. Pierce a letter asking him to reconsider clearing this area on the mountain ridge top. L. Tundermann will draft a letter to Lee Osborne making him aware of the situation and reminding him of the importance of the trap rock ridge legislation. Perhaps the Urban Forestry Commission can advise him of good forest management practices, the proposed trap rock ridge protection regulations and the roles of the Conservation Commission in these matters.

Committee Reports

D. Lukens reported on the Open Space Brochure Subcommittee meeting that took place prior to this meeting at 6:00 p.m. Seventeen-Twenty properties will be included. A format for the book has been established and an outline has been established. Maps and information on the properties is being collected. The committee would like to have the brochure ready by November of 1999.

Sheila Stoane and Ellen Lukens commented on the Open Space Grant Application. The application was mailed in time and included was the Daniels and Schwarzkopf properties. Copies will be distributed to the Commission.

E. Old Business

1. Conservation Commission Open Space Brochure

This was covered under Committee reports

2. Trap Rock Ridge Protection Workshop

Mr. Sipperly spoke to Bill Warner and Lee Osborne regarding this issue. Mr. Osborne agreed to have such a meeting workshop at 6:00 before a regularly scheduled meeting, possibly June 23, 1999. Mr. Sipperly will contact Marc Branse to check on his availability that night. A memo will be sent asking the Planning & Zoning Commission what topics they would like to focus in on. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed Trap Rock Ridge Protection Regulations. Mr.

Sipperly will coordinate this with Len Tundermann and Lee Osborne.

3. Ct Trails Day

Mr. Sipperly distributed the brochure that lists the sponsorship of the Middletown Conservation Commission hike at Guida Farms, Trails Day is June 5, and the hike will be led by J. Sipperly and Marcie Klattenberg.

4. Other

There was discussion relative to having stewards or sponsorships for the Open Space Lands owned by Middletown, similar to what Land Trusts do. This will be explored further.

M. DeRosier requested that the Public Open forum be moved to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate the public who attends the meeting in order to speak about an issue.

A. Siniscalchi commented that in order to change the agenda the bylaws would have to be modified.

F. New Business

1. Open Space properties and rankings

This item will be characterized in a format that can be distributed to the Council as requested at the Open Space Forum. The Open Space Committee will review and organize this information.

2. Fees in lieu of Open Space

Mr. Sipperly reported that he sent the Commission some background information on this issue. Bill Warner and Mr. Sipperly would like to consider this legislation for adoption in Middletown. The consensus of the Commission members present was to direct staff to pursue this matter and research what other towns and cities have been doing.

G. Correspondence

1. Connecticut Forest and Park Association has a meeting on Recreation in Connecticut on June 21, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. in Derby, CT

2. Open Space information on "fees in lieu of"

H. Public Forum

No one was present from the public.

I. Member Forum

Motion: To move the regular scheduled meeting of June 10, 1999 to June 17, 1999 to accommodate the meeting schedule of the Open Space Brochure Committee.

Moved by M. DeRosier\seconded by Sheila Stoane

approved unanimously

Jane Brawerman talked about the Mattabasset River Watershed program and the Conservation District working together to develop a watershed protection plan. They will develop priorities and take ownership to improve the watershed. Public meetings will be scheduled to involve Citizens.

Ms. Brawerman also reported that the group will continue to monitor the water quality and look towards the community to take this over.

L. Tundermann mentioned that the Natural Resource Committee could possibly take this over.

J. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Moved by J. Fortuna\seconded by J. Beatty

approved unanimously

Mr. Sipperly also handed out the Conservation Commission Brochure developed by Matt Zimmitti that was given out at Earth Day at Pratt and Whitney.