

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting of June 10, 2004

Members Present

Len Tunderman
Katchen Coley
David O'Brien
Jim Fortuna
Kate Miller
Howard Reid
Jane Brawerman @ 7:10 p.m.
Mike Ennis @ 7:15 p.m.

Members Absent

Gerald Rankin
Ellen Lukens
Sheila Stoane
Nancy Kiniry
Steven Ladd
Robert Nolan

Others Present

J. Sipperly, staff
C. Jablonski
T. Bradley

A. Call to order

Vice-Chairman Len Tunderman will serve as chairman in absence of Sheila Stoane. He called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. in Room 208. The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

B. Public Forum

No one from the public wished to speak

C. Minutes

The minutes of May 13, 2004 were reviewed.

Motion: That the minutes of May 13 be approved as presented.

Moved by H. Reid / seconded by J. Fortuna

Approved unanimously with K. Coley, D. O'Brien and J. Brawerman abstaining.

D. Officers and Committee Reports

Len Tunderman reported on the Council meeting where they approved the open space grant to DEP for Wilcox. He also reported that the P&Z Commission also granted approval to submit the grant to DEP. Mr. Sipperly reported that he had letters drafted from Middlesex Land Trust, CFPA and Berlin and Meriden Land

Trust. Mr. Sipperly also drafted a memo from the Conservation Commission supporting this grant proposal.

E. Old Business

1. Trail Guide

Len needs to work on his trail descriptions.

2. Public Relations – Conservation Corner

Katchen Coley thanked Mike Ennis for the great article he wrote about her in the Middletown Press for her birthday.

Katchen will do an article for a legislative update on DEP issues.

3. Pinehurst Property

The Middlesex Land Trust is walking this property this weekend and Mr. Sipperly talked to Kate Winslow about it.

4. NU Transmission Lines

Mr. Sipperly explained that the City received a letter from the Siting Council requesting that the City come up with an alternative and recommendation route for the power lines. Trish Bradley reported on the latest updates at the Siting Council. Mr. Sipperly has attended Siting Council hearings as well.

Trish Bradley reported that the Siting Council should make NU explain the need for this upgrade throughout Royal Oaks and the claim that three (3) lines are sufficient to carry the proposed upgrade load.

There are three main recommendations:

1. That NU should explain as fully as possible that the three (3) existing lines are sufficient to handle the proposed power load, to minimize R.O.W. width and EMF exposure.
2. That the Dooley Pond alternative without the giant monopoles is the better alternative for Royal Oaks. Originally, the monopoles were intended to be 105', then 130', then 150' high.
3. That we don't want the upgrade above ground through the Royal Oak subdivision.

It is also the recommendation of the Conservation Commission that the three towns sit down and decide the best alternative route before it goes to the Common Council.

A special not to be added to any correspondence that the state should increase efficiency and promote conservation a lot more than what they do now. Also, the state should pursue alternative sources of energy.

Motion: That the Conservation Commission prepare a draft recommendation that we outlined above and that this be our recommendation.

Moved by Mike Ennis / seconded by Dave O'Brien.

Discussion ensued that this motion is not an endorsement of the project or the route but that this is the last alternative that is available presently and that undergrounding may not be an option.

Vote: Approved unanimously

Mike Ennis and Kate Miller will work with staff to develop a response to N.U.

5. Guida Farms

Guida Farms has been tilled and corn was planted. The Green backers and Guida's did not contact staff as they were supposed to.

Motion: To go into executive session at 8:15 p.m.

Moved by Mike Ennis / seconded by Len Tunderman

The purpose of executive session is to discuss open space requisitions.

Approved unanimously.

Commission came out of executive session at 9:00 p.m.

No motions were made in executive session

F. New Business

None

G. Correspondence

H. Adjournment

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

Moved by James Fortuna / seconded by Mike Ennis

Approved unanimously