

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting of June 12, 2003

Members Present

Sheila Stoane
James Fortuna
Len Tundermann
Mike Ennis
Howard Reid
Dave O'Brien
Katchen Coley

Members Absent

Jane Brawerman
Elizabeth Holder
Gerry Rankin
Bob Nolan

Others Present

James Sipperly, Staff
Kate Miller
Mary Ellen Rubinow

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 full voting members.

B. Minutes of May 8, 2003

Motion: Minutes of May 8, 2003 are hereby tabled to save time for the meeting.
Moved by Mike Ennis / seconded by Jim Fortuna
Approved unanimously

Motion: To move Item G public forum to this portion of the meeting.
Moved by Mike Ennis / seconded by Len Tundermann
Approved unanimously

Kate Miller, a Middletown Inland Wetland Commissioner spoke regarding establishing BMP for stormwater quality and quantity. She handed out two (2) reports from students and displays were viewed.

Discussion ensued regarding working with the different commissions to work on regulations.

Kate mentioned having a subcommittee as an ad hoc working group to look at the regulations.

Katchen offers that the Mayor can ask each commission to get three (3) people from each commission to set up an ad hoc committee to study this presentation by Jim Gibbons and Bill Warner's list.

Ellen Lukens suggested this process be open to the public for comments on the regulations, etc.

Motion: Go into executive session for acquisition.

Moved by Mike Ennis / James Fortuna

Approved unanimously at 9:15 p.m.

C. Megan Haney – Organic Farming Co-op

Mr. Sipperly reported that he met with Megan to visit additional farms.

D. Officers and Committee Reports

E. Old Business

1. The Mattabasset Management Plan

D. O'Brien reported on the information he prepared for Jim to have typed up. This is a synopsis of what the plan means to Middletown and what is expected of the City to implement this plan. The information will then be mailed to members.

2. Trail Guide

Sheila Stoane reported that she had spoken to Beth Lapin and that a final draft of the book will be out soon. We still need photos and drawings to be added to the book. Anyone interested in submitting these items please contact her as soon as possible.

3. Public Relations Conservation Corner

Mike Ennis reported that Sheila Stoane is doing an article on wetlands for the next publication. The articles are approximately 750 words and the next one will be done by Len Tundermann on development rights. Please contact Mike for future articles and ideas.

4. Open Space Status

Mr. Sipperly reported that all the requirements for the Sumner Brook properties have been met and the City of Middletown should receive reimbursement monies within the next month.

The Peterson Oil property will be demolished this summer. Wilcox and Wesleyan acquisitions are being processed with the legal department.

5. DEP Open Space Grant 2003

No funds are expected to be released by DEP and staff will continue to track funding opportunities that may exist in the future.

6. Other

The commission went into executive session. Moved by Mike Ennis / seconded by Len Tundermann
Approved unanimously

The commission discussed open space acquisitions. The commission came out of executive session.

Motion: As a commission we authorized the open space sub-committee to request up to 4 appraisals for the acquisition of properties pursuant to the open space bonding. Moved by Mike Ennis / seconded by Ellen Lukens
Approved unanimously

F. New Business

1. Farm Land Protection Program

Mr. Sipperly thanked Mike Ennis for all his help in preparing the applications for this grant. At the last minute Krikoulski decided not to participate in the program. Mr. Graves decided to wait until the January round of funding to apply. The application was complete and ready to be submitted by the deadline. However Mr. Graves wanted more time to review the documents.

2. Planning and Zoning Development

Mike Ennis forwarded information to the Conservation Commission members relative to workshops sponsored by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Discussion ensued regarding the time frames and the collection of data to achieve the goals of the moratorium deadline. Sheila discussed the possibility of writing a letter to the Mayor to assemble all of the commissions together to work on this.

3. Transmission Upgrade – Northeast Utilities
June 23, 2003 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Middletown High School

Katchen Coley explained the proposed bill regarding transmission line upgrades. New legislation provides the ability of the towns to decide where lines are to be buried. Katchen is attending the meeting referenced above and all commission members should attend if possible.

G. Public Forum

No one from the public wished to speak.

H. Correspondence

1a. Subdivision Reviews

Nancy Kiniry reported that she received maps and is reviewing the 55 lot subdivision of Long Hill Road.

I. Member Forum

Mike Ennis reported that he would like to establish a partnership fund for Open Space. Real estate people and businesses could support a development fund for open space. EDC members and Larry McHugh should be contacted to see if there is a level of interest.

J. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Moved by Jim Fortuna / seconded by Len Tundermann
Approved unanimously