

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

July 12, 1990

PRESENT

R. Klattenberg, Chairman
A. Siniscalchi
C. Harris
E. Kelsey
M. Giamei
C. Peterson
J. Nofi
G. Russo
K. Coley
H. Kasper

ALSO PRESENT

J. Pierce
T. Stein, Press

ABSENT

J. Brawerman
R. Otto
D. Archer
S. Faraci

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by R. Klattenberg, Chairman, at 7:08 p.m. in Room B-20 of the Municipal Building. H. Kasper sat in place of absent member S. Faraci.

B. Minutes

1. Approved

R. Klattenberg noted the previously approved minutes that were sent to Commission members.

2. Drafted

a. April 17, 1990 Watershed Trails Subcommittee

G. Russo motioned, seconded by H. Kasper, that the draft minutes of the April 17, 1990 Watershed Trails Subcommittee meeting be approved for acceptance by the full Commission. The motion was passed. G. Russo then motioned, seconded by H. Kasper, to approve the minutes of the Watershed Trails Subcommittee minutes of April 17, 1990 be accepted by the full Commission. The motion passed.

b. June 14, 1990 Regular Meeting

Upon a motion by C. Harris, seconded by G. Russo, to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 14, 1990, as amended. The motion passed with J. Nofi and H. Kasper abstaining.

c. June 20, 1990 Lee Farm Application Review Subcommittee

Since Subcommittee member J. Brawerman was absent, M. Giamei moved, seconded by H. Kasper, to table the minutes of the June 20, 1990 Lee Farm Application Review Subcommittee. The motion passed.

d. June 21, 1990 Open Space Criteria Subcommittee

K. Coley moved, seconded by M. Giamei, that the June 21, 1990 Open Space Criteria Subcommittee minutes be approved for acceptance by the full Commission. The motion passed. C. Harris then motioned, seconded by H. Kasper that the June 21, 1990 Open Space Criteria Subcommittee minutes be accepted by the full Commission. The motion passed with E. Kelsey abstaining.

e. June 27, 1990 Open Space Criteria Subcommittee

K. Coley moved, seconded by A. Siniscalchi, that the June 27, 1990 Open Space Criteria Subcommittee minutes be approved for acceptance by the full Commission. The motion passed. A. Siniscalchi then motioned, seconded by C. Peterson, that the June 27, 1990 Open Space Criteria Subcommittee minutes be accepted by the full Commission. The motion passed. (Opposed: E. Kelsey)

C. Officers/Chairman Report

Secretary - H. Kasper reported that she had received a letter from Janet Passinese.

Chairman - R. Klattenberg reported that the Commission has been making good progress, but slowly. To date, the Commission has approved bylaws, Earth Day participation, relationships with other City departments, priorities for goals, subcommittees. He noted that the Commission has strong opinions, polarization, and that their work is just beginning with everyone's support and efforts.

Bylaws Subcommittee - A. Siniscalchi reminded the Commission that the bylaws are now final. Any further proposed amendments would have to be placed on the agenda for discussion and voted at the next meeting.

Watershed Trails Subcommittee - G. Russo requested discussion of watershed trails be tabled until the Commission has set their long-term goals.

Open Space Criteria Subcommittee - A. Siniscalchi thanked the Commission for their comments at the July 9th special meeting. The Subcommittee will continue to work to refine the criteria and will work on acquisition criteria formulation.

Lee Farm Application Review Subcommittee - R. Klattenberg reported on memo sent to Planning & Zoning Chairwoman A. Loffredo. He said the Commission's memo was well received and complimented on the quality of the report. The Commission's comments are being responded to. He also noted that they would have to follow up on revisions and send a letter to Planning & Zoning to address their changes.

Coginchaug River Task Force Subcommittee - J. Nofi reported that the subcommittee will be meeting in September. A packet of information will be put together for distribution to the Commission.

D. Old Business

Lee Farm Estate Review - R. Klattenberg outlined the process of the application review.

Open Space Criteria Review - A. Siniscalchi discussed the Subcommittee's plan for the development of open space acquisition criteria. He emphasized that Commission members will be notified of all scheduled meetings.

Long Term Planning - A discussion ensued on the opinion sheet Commission members filled out. R. Klattenberg described the resulting three categories (high, low, middle) for priorities. The Commission discussed the survey results. R. Klattenberg, Chairman, will give the Commission members another opportunity/option to redo the sheet privately.

M. Giamei motioned, seconded by K. Coley, to continue the discussion of subcommittees and assignments of subcommittees. The motion did not pass.

A. Siniscalchi then motioned, seconded by C. Peterson, to table further discussion of the long term planning but go on to discuss the formation of the three subcommittees and initial discussion of some of their tasks and assignments. The motion passed.

Upon a motion, duly seconded, the Commission unanimously voted to take a three minute break at 8:19 p.m.

The Commission reconvened at 8:26 p.m.

G. Russo motioned, seconded by J. Nofi, to give the three members thirty (30) days to redo or accept the results as they stand. The motion passed.

A question was raised if the subcommittees that have been formed will be standard subcommittees of the Commission. If this is so, the bylaws will have to be amended. Another question was raised. If the subcommittees are included in the bylaws, then do the subcommittees have approval and authority of the Commission to make recommendations on behalf of the full Commission?

The Commission then discussed the three options for subcommittees as follows:

1. Initial decision in subcommittee, then full Commission in special meeting (current system).
2. In bylaws, (Page 6, Article VIII, Section 8) adopted component on standing subcommittees. Chairman appoints subcommittees and any Commission member can attend and vote. However, a majority of Commission members must be present to conduct business and vote.
3. Modify the bylaws to form standing subcommittees and change word from Commission to "Committee" (Page 6, Article VIII, Section 8) then subcommittees could conduct business expeditiously.

Options 1 and 2 are currently available. R. Klattenberg reported on standing committees as defined in Robert's Rules: Subcommittee acting as a fact-finding group may provide recommendations (written reports) for the full Commission.

It was discussed that it could be improper to have subcommittees represent the full Commission and there may be some danger in dealing with Environmental Impact Studies. It was decided by the Commission to remain with the current system of subcommittee reports and special meetings of the full Commission whereby the Chairman of a subcommittee will present the facts to the full Commission and not lead to a position.

An initial discussion of subcommittees took place to be further discussed at the next meeting: Members expressed their interest in the following three subcommittees: 1) Open Space Criteria and Acquisition; 2) Natural Resources Inventory; and, 3) Application Review and Liaison with Other Agencies. A. Siniscalchi - #1 continue and #3; C. Harris - none at the moment; K. Coley - #1; J. Nofi - #1 and #3; G. Russo - #1; C. Peterson - #2; E. Kelsey - #1 or #2 depending which one we need people; M. Giamei - #1 and #3; R. Klattenberg - act as ex-officio to all subcommittees.

A discussion took place on whether the activities of the Walking Trails Subcommittee should be part of the third subcommittee. Other members that expressed interest in this area included G. Russo, S. Faraci, J. Brawerman, R. Otto and H. Kasper.

Planning & Zoning Text Amendment - discussion tabled.

E. New Business

Acquisition Procedures - R. Klattenberg reported on offers to the City for open space property. A. Siniscalchi discussed the importance of completing the open space criteria prior to reviewing property for consideration by the City.

F. Correspondence

1. David Archer Letter - R. Klattenberg reported on D. Archer's letter of resignation and acceptance by the Mayor. R. Klattenberg described his recommendation for D. Archer's replacement.
2. J. Passinese Letter
3. COVERTS Project
4. J. Gibbons Memo - Public Act 90-239
5. J. Gibbons Memo - Fuel Storage Tank Regulations

R. Klattenberg brought the above items to the Commission's attention for further discussion.

G. Public Forum

No comments.

H. Member Forum

J. Nofi emphasized the need for assistance in subcommittee activities.

I. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, A. Siniscalchi moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by C. Peterson. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Hope Kasper, Secretary
M. Giamei, Acting Secretary
A. Siniscalchi, Acting Secretary

APPROVED ON: _____

July 12, 1990

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Respectfully submitted:

Hope Kasper, Secretary
M. Giamei, Acting Secretary
A. Siniscalchi, Acting Secretary

APPROVED ON: Jan 10, 1991