

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 14, 2005

Members Present

Sheila Stoane
Gerald Rankin
Katchen Coley
James Fortuna
Howard Reid
Laura Hall

Members Absent

Len Tundermann
Ellen Lukens
Kate Miller
Stephen Ladd
Jane Brawerman
Nancy Kiniry
Michael Ennis
David O'Brien

Others Present

Brian Robinson, ZEO

A Call to order

B. Roll Call.

Chairwoman Sheila Stoane called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m in Room 208 in the Municipal Building. The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

C. Public Forum

Ms. Eleanor Kelsey (pages 9 & 11) stated that the trail guide is not accurate and crosses several pieces of private property according to the maps on pages 9 and 11 of the Middletown Trail Guide.

Mr. Lawrence Buck states the same information and concern as E. Kelsey.

Mr. Jim Tighe owns land in Berlin and states that the map on page 11 is not accurate and the trail crosses his property. Mr. Tighe stated that he contacted the Connecticut Parks and Forest to inform them that he has not given permission for trail access.

Ms. Kelsey expressed concern with police firing range.

Mr. Buck commented on page 11 and stated that the trail passes through private land and is shown on the map as committed open space.

E. Minutes

Minutes of the May 12, 2005 meeting.

Motion to table minutes was moved by Katchen Coley and seconded by James Fortuna.
Approved unanimously

F. Old Business

1. Trail Guide

No further discussion.

2. Public Relations – Conservation Corner (Article on Farmland Preservation)

No discussion.

3. Open Space Status and Bond Referendum

No further discussion.

4. Guida Property

The commission questioned if signs should be posted if pesticides are going to be applied to the cornfields. Sheila Stoane noted that the small pond on the Guida property as turned green. Laura Hall recommended sampling the pond.

Katchen Coley recommended Jane Brawerman for guidance or Kate Miller. Brian Robinson will contact Mr. Greenbacker to inquire if pesticides are used and to notify him that signs must be posted.

5. Farmland Preservation

Kip Kolesinskas of the USDA sent a survey to the City to assess our future interest in applications for farmland preservation. The commission expressed interest to resubmit for the Graves property. Sheila Stoane recommended having Brian Robinson contact Michael Ennis for additional properties. Brian Robinson will complete the survey and return it to Kip.

6. Stopping lawn-care pesticide use. The Conservation Commission has endorsed the promotion of a program that will encourage residents and businesses in Plainville to voluntarily stop using chemicals and synthetic fertilizers on their lawns and gardens.

No discussion.

7. Other

None

G. New Business

1. The Commissioners discussed the letter to Mayor Thornton, dated 6-26-05, regarding the renaming of open space associated with the Charles Mary Drive subdivision. The letter asked the commission to consider renaming the open space from “Westfield Woods” to “Kieft Woods”.

Motion to change the name of the open space to “Kieft Woods” was moved by Laura Hall and seconded by Gerry Rankin. Approved unanimously.

2. Voluntarily Open Space Round-Up

Sheila Stoane explained Bill Warner's proposal of including a voluntary donation for open space in the City tax bills. This proposal would be a voluntary program whereas residents could round-up their tax bill to provide a donation for open space funding.

Motion to pursue voluntary round-up funding for open space and farmland preservation was moved by Katchen Coley and seconded by Howard Reid. Approved unanimously.

Katchen Coley explained the Bill 410 recently signed by the governor. The bill will provide approximately \$6,5 million annually for open space, farmland preservation, affordable housing, and historic preservation.

Howard Reid questioned how much funding would be available to open space and farmland preservation under the new bill.

3. Insert for trail guide on Clean Energy

The commission discussed putting the Clean Energy insert into the trail guide. The commission agreed that it would not be appropriate for the trail guide.

Laura Hall recommended putting the Clean Energy insert in Conservation Corner.

Sheila Stoane asked Laura Hall to put the article into the Middletown Press and the Hartford Courant before October 17.

Motion to add item to New Business was moved by Katchen Coley and seconded by Laura Hall. Approved unanimously.

4. Tynan Property

Katchen Coley stated that this property needs maintenance which should include brush clearing and adding parking.

Motion to explore funding was moved by Katchen Coley and seconded by Laura Hall. Approved unanimously.

H. Correspondence

None

I. Member Forum

J. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:30pm

Moved by James Fortuna and seconded by Katchen Coley

Approved unanimously