

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

AUGUST 10, 2000

PRESENT

J. Beatty
E. Lukens
K. Humphrey
J. Killian
K. Coley
J. Fortuna
J. Brawerman @ 7:17 p.m.
L. Tundermann @ 7:20 p.m.

ABSENT

K. Holden
L. Holder
H. Reid
S. Stoane

OTHERS PRESENT

J. Sipperly, Staff
S. Schakofsky,
MSWCD

Call to order

1. Roll Call

E. Lukens, Vice Chairperson, will serve as Chairperson for the Commission tonight in the absence Of Sheila Stoane. E. Lukens called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. in the Board Room at the Russell Library.

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

B. Minutes of July 13, 2000

The tapes of the July 13, 2000 meeting were misplaced due to the move of the Planning Office Downstairs in City Hall. The tapes were recently located and staff will transcribe the tapes for the next meeting.

Motion: To move the Public Forum (Item G) ahead of (Item C) Officers and Committee reports.

Moved by J. Fortuna\seconded by J. Beatty, approved unanimously

G. Public Forum – Vernal Pool Study

Stephanie Schakofsky, gave an overview of the Soil and Water Conservation District of which she is Executive Director. Stephanie discussed the percentages of vernal pools found or identified through the aerial photography. S. Schakofsky would like this used in the Plan of Conservation and Development. She also discussed the procedure for identifying vernal pools and contacting the property owners. They got a 75% positive response.

Motion: To forward the maps presented tonight and the report dated Spring 2000 to the Consultants preparing the Plan of Conservation and Development for inclusion in the plan.

Moved by J. Beatty\seconded by K. Coley

Approved unanimously with J. Brawerman abstaining

S. Shakofsky also mentioned that two sites were identified as possible Jefferson Salamander Sites, of which species is threatened and endangered.

A commission member noted that there was no page 11, Mr. Sipperly had his original and there was no page 11 in the original. Ms. Schakofsky will check on that.

C. Officers and Committee Reports

All items will be covered under the agenda

D. Old Business

1. Open Space Brochure

Ellen Lukens reported that an outstanding bill to Midstate for map production still needs to be paid. Staff will follow up on this. Meanwhile, the maps are being refined along with the text and descriptions of all the properties which will be included in the book.

2. Plan of Conservation and Development

Much discussion took place regarding the latest open space chapter draft for the Plan of Conservation and Development. The present draft is unacceptable and the Commission has drafted a letter to Paul Buckhurst with recommended changes. A meeting will occur on Friday with the consultants and the Planning, Conservation and Development Office to discuss the current draft. John Killian, Ellen Lukens and Katchen Coley will attend.

Motion: To deliver to Paul Buckhurst the Management Plan for the Mattabasset River Watershed Study including the Natural Resource maps from DEP listing the state and federal list of threatened and endangered species.

3. DEP Open Space Grant (Fall Round)

Much discussion ensued regarding pursuing additional DEP funds in the fall grant round. It was suggested that letters of thanks be sent to Savage, Vernland and Rizza. Staff will draft a thank you note. There was much discussion on the possibility of having the Council put an Open Space

Bond referendum question on the ballot in November. The next Council Meeting is September 4th. Much discussion about the amount of a bond and the procedures to follow. The Commission will meet with the Mayor to discuss this further.

Motion: To communicate to the Common Council that it is the Conservation Commission's desire that a referendum question be put on the November ballot for the purposes of open space acquisition.

Moved by J. Killian\seconded by L. Tundermann

Approved unanimously

J. Sipperly suggested a cover letter to the Mayor and the Council regarding this motion.

4. Rockfall Grant

J. Sipperly reported that the Rockfall Grant has to be implemented by their Annual Meeting in September. An informational open space brochure has to be developed and printed. Staff will do a draft which K. Coley and Jane Brawerman will edit the cost/benefit of open space should be included.

5. Membership

E. Lukens reported that Liz Holder and Kim Holden (Porter) was appointed from alternates to full members. The Commission still would like some answers as to why Alan Siniscalchi was not reappointed. The Chairman will look into this with staff.

6. Other

The Mattabasset River Watershed Plan was reviewed.

Mr. Sipperly explained that all of the towns in the watershed will hopefully be signing and adopting the plan.

Motion: That the Conservation Commission endorse the plan and wishes that the Common Council endorses it at the next meeting.

Moved by J. Beatty\seconded by K. Humphrey

Approved unanimously with J. Brawerman abstaining

F. New Business

1. Trap Rock Ridge Protection

Mr. Sipperly stated that Wesleyan students at the end of last semester conducted a survey and developed a petition for people to sign. The students will follow up with this in the fall semester.

2. Other

No other New Business

E. Lukens reported that there was a possibility of changing the September 14th meeting to September 7th due to the absence of S. Stoane and E. Lukens

Motion: If need be, to change the meeting date from September 14 to September 7, 2000.

Moved by J. Beatty\seconded by L. Tundermann

F. Correspondence

G. Public Forum

H. Member Forum

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Moved by J. Fortuna\seconded by J. Beatty

Approved unanimously

