

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of
Regular Meeting of August 11, 2005

Members Present

Katchen Coley
Len Tunderman
Michael Ennis
David O'Brien
Gerald Rankin
Kate Miller at 7:30 pm
Nancy Kiniry at 7:45 pm
Stephen Ladd

Members Absent

James Fortuna
Howard Reid
Laura Hall
Sheila Stoane
Ellen Lukens
Jane Brawerman

Others Present

Brian Robinson, ZEO
Members of Public

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call

Kate Miller arrived at 7:30 p.m. and a quorum was determined.

- F. Old Business

1. Trail Guides

Ms. Eleanor Kelsey stated that no one gave permission to have the trail through their properties. Brian Robinson stated that he contacted CT Forest & Parks and scheduled a meeting with Adam Moore on Friday, August 12, 2005.

Len Tunderman recommended having a vote stating that certain properties are not open for public access. The commission asked Brian Robinson to call back Eleanor Kelsey on the progress of this situation.

2. Public Forum

Michael Ennis summarized the last article on farmland preservation.

Katchen Coley summarized Bill 410 regarding funding for open space (DEP), farmland preservation (NRCS), and affordable housing.

3. Open Space Status

The commission asked B. Robinson to check on the deadline for DEP open space application for the Graves property. Ms. Coley also expressed concern with DEP application regarding the appraisal.

The commission questioned if additional properties could be combined with the Graves property for a future NRCS application.

Katchen Coley asked about the Middlefield property and stated that Middletown has expressed interest.

4. Guida Property

Katchen Coley called UCONN regarding IPM-Integrated Pest Management. Kate Miller stated that state notification is required along street frontage for 72 hours prior to application of pesticides. Recommended that signs be posted at the trailhead. B. Robinson summarized the August 11, 2005 memo regarding the Guida property.

5. Farmland Preservation

No discussion.

6. Stopping Lawn-Care Pesticide

Katchen Coley praised Cheshire for recent article. Commissioner Coley stated that Parks & Rec. responded that no pesticides are applied to the elementary school fields. K. Coley recommended inviting Parks & Rec. to next meeting to discuss the current use of the fields.

The commission recommended contacting Wes Downing for memo on how the recreational fields are cared for regarding pesticides, lime, and fertilizers. Eleanor Kelsey recommended better maintenance plan for City properties. K. Coley explained that Parks & Rec. has limited budget to maintain properties.

Nancy Kiniry recommended exploring maintenance options including outside sources. K. Coley and M. Ennis recommended pursuing funding from the Council for property maintenance. K. Coley recommended exploring other possible sources including groups such as Boy Scouts, Green Kids, and The Jonah Center.

G. New Business

Michael Ennis questioned the new property donated from the State in the CVH property. Brian Robinson Briefly summarized. M. Ennis stated that the State would have to approve the sale of the houses. The Commissioners questioned the location of the houses. David O'Brien questioned how the property was deeded to the City. The Commission requested status on the State donated property and was interested in a site walk.

Katchen Coley praised Long Lane farms garden for their efforts. Michael Ennis will be writing the next Chronicle article on the Long Lane garden.

Kate Miller reported on the MHS Planting Plan. There was a meeting with Kate Miller, Katchen Coley, Jane Harris, William Warner, and B. Robinson that discussed concerns with the plan. K. Miller questioned if there should be guidelines for developers on landscaping plans. The guidelines could outline what not to plant such as exotic species, invasive species, and species susceptible to diseases. The commission

recommended having procedures for review by the Urban Forestry Commission and the Conservation Commission. (Add to agenda under Old Business).

H. Correspondence

None.

I. Member Forum

None

Ms. Kelsey expressed concern with the poplar tree on Tynan Park because of leaves and that poplar trees are not very wind resistant. Ms. Kelsey added that Tynan Park is not maintained properly, kids are there late at night, and the weeds are high near the barn.

E. Minutes

Motion to table minutes to September meeting was moved by Michael Ennis and seconded by Len Tunderman. Motion was approved unanimously.

J. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8 pm.