

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of
Regular Meeting of September 8, 2005

Members Present

Sheila Stoane
Katchen Coley
Len Tunderman
James Fortuna
Jane Brawerman
Stephen Ladd
Kate Miller
Howard Reid

Members Absent

David O'Brien
Michael Ennis
Nancy Kiniry
Laura Hall
Gerald Rankin
Ellen Lukens

Others Present

Brian Robinson, WEO

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call

Chairwoman Sheila Stoane called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m in Room 208 in the Municipal Building. The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

- E. Minutes

Minutes of May 12, 2005

Motion to approve minutes of May 12, 2005 was moved by James Fortuna and seconded by Kate Miller. Approved unanimously.

Minutes of July 14, 2005

Motion to approve minutes of July 14, 2005 was moved by Katchen Coley and seconded by James Fortuna. Approved unanimously with Kate Miller abstaining.

Minutes of August 11, 2005

Motion to approve minutes of August 11, 2005 was moved by Katchen Coley and seconded by Stephen Ladd. Approved unanimously with James Fortuna abstaining.

- C. Public Forum

Eleanor Kelsey stated that she has not been contacted by Connecticut Forest & Parks (Adam Moore) regarding moving the trail off her property. Ms. Kelsey expressed concern with moving the trail onto Massa Tom Road because the City does not recognize it as a City road. Ms. Kelsey recommended that the trail guides be recalled because it invites the public onto private property. Ms. Kelsey stated that her mother denied access for the trail some time before 1997.

F. Old Business

1. Trail Guides

Kate Miller recommended writing a Conservation Corner article about the correction to the trail guide regarding access on private property. Kate Miller also recommended posting signs on the trails and adding an insert in remaining trail guides concerning access to private property. Sheila Stoane stated that the trail guide already includes wording to obey all “No Trespassing” signs.

Brian Robinson met with Adam Moore regarding the trail crossing private properties. Adam Moore stated that the trail would be moved off of Ms. Kelsey’s property and onto City property to the south.

2. Public Relations

Sheila Stoane asked someone to volunteer for the next article. Katchen Coley volunteered to write an article on the Long Lane Gardens.

3. Open Space Status

No discussion.

4. Guida Property

Brian Robinson summarized the memo dated 8/11/05. Kate Miller recommended signs on the road and at the trailhead before pesticide spraying (next spring). Kate Miller also recommended that the trails be remarked at the Guida property. Sheila Stoane asked Brian Robinson to research other methods of marking trails because the paint fades quickly.

5. Farmland Preservation

No discussion.

6. Stopping Lawn-Care Pesticide

The Committee reviewed the email from John Milardo on the pesticide/fertilizer applications to City recreational fields.

Kate Miller recommended seeking a Rockfall grant to hire an intern (this spring) to create an educational campaign on pesticide use.

7. Development of Guidelines for Landscaping Plans

Katchen Coley is planning to organize a meeting in October to develop guidelines for landscaping.

8. Millane's Lease Agreement

The commission recommended the open space fund as the recipient of the lease money. The commission questioned what pesticides and fertilizers will be used on the properties and the schedule for application.

Sheila Stoane asked that Millane's be contacted to obtain the pesticide/fertilizer information. When the information is received it will be mailed to the Commission for review.

Motion to table the discussion until more information is available on the pesticide/fertilizer use was moved by Katchen Coley and seconded by Jane Brawerman. Approved unanimously.

9. Other

Kate Miller questioned when the Plan of Conservation and Development will be brought to Planning and Zoning Commission for review.

Jane Brawerman reported that trees have fallen at Ravine Park and should be cut off the trail.

Sheila Stoane recommended testing the water of Guida Pond because it green and overgrown with algae, and the pond was never like that before.

G. New Business

1. Other

Kate Miller reported that Public Works is working with the Johan Center and on establishing trails at the landfill if it is safe for public Access (GIS Learning Project).

Katchen Coley is setting up a meeting with Parks & Rec and Donna Ellis on invasive species. Looking to find a small pond with purple loosestrife to fight with European beetles. Eleanor Kelsey reported that she saw purple loosestrife across from the Smith Street Park.

Tides of Change on the CT River, Friday, September 30th (Garden Club) Mansfield House, at 1:00 p.m. at the Inn at Middletown. Susan O'Connell will be Speaker on Tides of Change.

Arboretum Trail Proposal

- Katchen Coley expressed concern with the trail through the arboretum.
- The Committee expressed concern with the trail damaging the roots of the trees.

Aquifer Protection Area Commission

- Committee recommended Planning and Zoning Commission

Jane Brawerman is monitoring the program on the Cochingchaug River. A stream walk survey volunteer is needed for next Saturday at the Middlefield Community Center.

CACIWC Flyer - Saturday, November 5th. Send registration form back to Brian Robinson if you are interested in attending.

H. Correspondence

None

I. Member Forum

None

J. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. was moved by James Fortuna and seconded by Len Tunderman. Approved unanimously.