

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting of September 9, 2004

Members Present

Katchen Coley
David O'Brien
Kate Miller
James Fortuna
Gerald Rankin
Jane Brawerman
Michael Ennis
Sheila Stoane
Howard Reid
Nancy Kiniry

Members Absent

Ellen Lukens
Stephen Ladd
Robert Nolan
Len Tunderman

Others Present

Jim Sipperly, Staff
T. Degnan, City Forester

A. Call to order

1. Roll Call. Sheila Stoane, Chairperson 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.

B. Public Forum

No one from the public was in attendance

Tom Degnan – Land Management Consulting, Timber Harvesting.

James Sipperly explained the role of the City Forester and introduced Tom Degnan, the City Forester. Tom developed an outline which was mailed to the Commission.

Tom Degnan explained that there are two major pieces of the forestry program – planning and implementation. He talked about his experience working in other towns. “One should inventory what you have with regards to vegetational communities and that may guide you on what habitat you may want to enhance.” Tom distributed a copy of a forest stewardship plan for a 50 acre parcel in Lyme, CT. Goals should be matched and considered according to the habitat and forest on the particular parcel.

Sheila and the Commission members thanked him for his presentation.

C. Minutes

The minutes of July 8 are not official because there was no quorum. Mr. Sipperly handed out copies.

D. Officers and Committee Reports

None Reported

E. Old Business

1. Trail Guide

Sheila Stoane reported that anyone with artwork or pictures should submit them a.s.a.p. The trail book is almost completed.

2. Public Relations – Conservation Corner

Mike Ennis reported that he was writing the next article. Mr. Sipperly reminded him of an article from Jane Harris regarding urban forestry issues. Mr. Ennis stated he will talk to Jane regarding her article.

3. Open Space Status – Pine Hurst Associated Land Donation.

This is being considered by the Middlesex Land Trust and this will be removed from the agenda.

4. NU Transmission Lines

Sheila Stoane attended the CT Siting Council meeting. She read an article in the Middletown Press dated 9/9/04. She stated that no one from Middletown was represented. Atty. Wilson was also present at the Siting Council meeting as stated by S. Stoane. Sheila reported that they are still talking about buffer zones and how to define them.

5. Other

Sheila Stoane brought up the Plan of Conservation and Development. She reported that this PC&D is being resurrected by the P & Z Commission. She also reported that hearings will be done on the first six (6) chapters. Ellen Lukens, Sheila Stoane, Kate Miller and Katchen Coley agree to look at the chapters being considered.

The timber harvesting issue was discussed. It was the consensus that we try to conduct an inventory on a property.

Motion: To ask to hire Tom Degnan to complete a forestry inventory on the Daniels/Schwartzkopf properties.

Moved by K. Miller / Seconded by D. O'Brien.
Approved unanimously

F. New High School

1. Mr. Sipperly reported that a special meeting of the MIWWA will be held on September 14, 2004. Comments could be generated from this Commission for that meeting. Mr. Sipperly copied and distributed copies from Wendi Goodfriend. Kate Miller, Katchen Coley and Jane Brawerman will prepare comments.

2. Bond Referendum

This item was not discussed.

G. Correspondence

Miscellaneous correspondence was received.

H. Member Forum

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:05

Moved by J. Brawerman/seconded by K. Miller
Approved unanimously