

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

September 10, 1998

PRESENT

K. Coley
J. Beatty
J. Fortuna
Humphrey
A. Siniscalchi
M. DeRosier

ALSO PRESENT

J. Sipperly
P. DeRosier

ABSENT

L. Tundermann
D. Filer
E. Lukens
J. Brawerman
J. Marhevka
S. Stoane

K.

A.

Chairman Alan Siniscalchi called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

Jim Fortuna will be a voting member tonight.

Mr. Siniscalchi stated that we will focus in on the agenda item dealing with the Open Space Program.

Motion: To change the agenda to have item F6 at the end of the meeting.

Moved by K. Coley; seconded by M. DeRosier; approved unanimously

B. Minutes of August 13, 1998 meeting.

Mr. Warner took written minutes for half of the meeting and Mr. Sipperly will transcribe from the tapes the rest of the minutes for that meeting.

C. Mr. Sipperly reported that the grand opening of the River Road area for use as a multi-use trail, will be Sunday, September 13, 1998. The road will be closed so that people can walk, run, rollerblade or cycle along the Connecticut River. A press release went out and an article will be in the paper Saturday.

Chairman Siniscalchi thanked Pat DeRosier for his art work to be used for the Open Space Brochure.

D. Mr. Siniscalchi reported that he has been working to get people to fill the vacancies. Matt Zimmitti is interested and we will call him to follow through with this. There are 10 regular members and 3 alternate member positions. Chairman Siniscalchi recommended moving the alternates up to full members. Party affiliation will also be considered.

E. Mr. Siniscalchi drafted a sample letter to recognize the two young boys for reporting the oil spill. Mr. Sipperly will have it typed and will bring it to the next meeting. The Commission will also coordinate something for Earth Day.

F. Old Business

1. Trap Rock Ridge Protection Regulations

Chairman Siniscalchi has talked to the legislators who drafted the initial legislation to see if something could be done to have the regulations adopted.

Mr. Sipperly stated that maybe there should be another approach. K. Coley mentioned that Mark Branse could possibly make a presentation to the Planning and Zoning Commission to discuss any lingering issues.

2. Westlake Trolley Line Bikeway

Mr. Sipperly reported that the project has been completed and has been submitted. Midstate Regional Planning will review the projects for the region. The D.O.T. will then review the proposals. Mr. Sipperly also reported on the progress of the bike path presently being constructed on Westlake Drive.

3. Conservation Commission Open Space Brochure

Mr. Sipperly reported that most of the information from the original list of properties has been submitted. Additional properties were added as requested by Park and Recreation.

4. Pin Oak Golf Course Proposal

Mr. Sipperly reported that the wetland application was approved on September 2, 1998. Mr. Sipperly discussed the contents of the motion to approve. Mr. Sipperly stated that the applicants have to apply for a Special Permit with the Planning and Zoning Commission. A lot of detailed information will be forthcoming. For example, actual foundation plans. Mr. Sipperly will forward the comments from this Commission to the Planning and Zoning Commission and will notify this Commission when it is filed.

5. Middletown Clean Air Association

The Middletown Health Commission met regarding this issue and Marie DeRosier is a member. Ms. DeRosier reported that a resolution was endorsed to send to the council.

Motion: To endorse the resolution drafted by the Health Department and request that the Council give it due consideration.

Moved by J. Beatty\ seconded by M. DeRosier; vote was unanimous with Alan Siniscalchi abstaining.

There was some discussion about having Leon Vinci or our Chairman do a press release on this issue.

Motion: To have the Chairperson do a press release stating the Commission's position on this issue.

Move by J. Beatty\ seconded by K. Coley; approved unanimously

6. Website Information and Conservation Commission

We are working to coordinate this effort and implement it as soon as possible.

G. Correspondence

1. The CACIWC meeting will be on October 29, 1998. Ms. Coley, Mr. Beatty, Mr. Fortuna, Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Siniscalchi are interested in attending. A nomination award is in the Habitat for nominating people for the CACIWC awards.

2. Connecticut Greenways Meeting Announcement

3. The Silvio Conte Challenge Grant

A 50% matching grant is available for projects in the Connecticut River Watershed.

4. Mr. Sipperly discussed the submittal of our Brownfields Pilot Grant for \$200,000.

5. Mr. Sipperly reported that Middletown received the America the Beautiful Grant for \$12,000 to plant trees at the Long Hill Estate.

Of the \$12,000 America the Beautiful Grant, \$3,000 is funded by the grant and the remainder is a cost share match, donation from private sources or in kind services; approved unanimously.

H. Public Forum

I. Member Forum

M. DeRosier discussed the problem at Wesley School and Ken Jackson called her regarding a wetland enforcement issue.

Mr. Sipperly explained this situation to the commission and what the wetland Commission is doing about it. Mr. Beatty also clarified the facts of this issue.

K. Coley discussed the importance of education and the public regarding open space issues. She also handed out some information on an event that Fairfield is doing.

Mr. Sipperly reported on the last work shop the Open Space Committee conducted. Mr. Sipperly is working on printing a map showing the property parcels so that we can develop a work sheet showing the land that is available. He is also working on obtaining the map, block and lot numbers of all the parcel's listed.

The short term goal is to rank a few priority properties so that we can apply for state funding. The long term goal is to develop a comprehensive list of all the properties in Middletown that may be available for purchase under the Open Space Program.

Discussion ensued regarding a referendum and related issues.

Motion: To adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Moved by J. Fortuna and seconded by Katchen Coley

approved unanimously.