

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

September 11, 1997

PRESENT

M. DeRosier
J. Fortuna (alternate)
J. Brawerman
S. Stoane
K. Humphrey
Coley
A. Siniscalchi
M. Knight
E. Roberts (7:43)

ALSO PRESENT

ABSENT

D. Filer
J. Czuba
L. Tundermann
J. Beatty

K.

A. Chairman Alan Siniscalchi called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building.

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

B. Minutes

1. May 8, 1997 Regular Meeting
2. June 12, 1997 Regular Meeting

Mr. Siniscalchi welcomed Mr. Sipperly as Environmental Planner.

C. Officers and Committee Reports

Motion: To nominate James Sipperly as Secretary pro-tem

Moved by Ms. Stoane; seconded by Ms. Brawerman; vote: approved unanimously

1. Photo Contest - we will announce the winners later in the meeting.
2. Open Space Acquisition - need to evaluate further sites for acquisition.
3. Bike Forfeiture Ordinance needs to be reviewed by the Police Department.
4. Tynan Barn - needs to be studied.

5. Bruce Spaman has marked the trees at Guida Farms. However before the harvest takes place a joint meeting between Conservation Commission, Park and Recreation and Urban Forestry should take place.

6. Ridge Top Protection - Regulations have been drafted specifically to Middletown.

7. Commission Brochure

8. Matt Hills needs a letter of thanks on behalf of the Commission.

4. City Commissions Liaison

Katchen Coley was very disappointed that the golf course proposal also in Berlin did not come to this Commission first before going to the Wetland Commission.

Ken Humphrey also expressed his dissatisfaction with this.

5. Park Liaison Committee

We will have a meeting with Park and Recreation to coordinate timber harvesting and open space use and management.

6. Mr. Siniscalchi distributed the Habitat.

The CACIW Annual dinner is October 30, 1997 and some members are interested in attending.

7. Mattabasset River - In June the association sponsored a week long list of events and activities. The president of the association is attending local boards and commission meetings to become familiar with the watershed and pending issues.

D. Old Business

1. Discussion of trails due to off road vehicles and methods and options to control their use.

Mr. Sipperly will send copies of the ordinance to the chairman for his review and comments before distributing to other departments.

2. Open Space Jurisdiction and management

Staff reported that a joint meeting will be hopefully scheduled this fall with possibly the Rockfall Foundation serving as host for the forum. Mr. Sipperly will coordinate with other committees.

3. Open Space Preservation Process - This committee should meet to discuss the program. Mr. Sipperly will send out a list of properties for review and update by the commission members. Mr. Tunderman and Mr. Siniscalchi will work together to set up a meeting.

Ms. Coley mentioned that she read the Republican platform and that she was pleased to see a priority would be placed on managing open space and parks. She would like this added to the Democratic platform as well. This is a non-partisan issue.

4. Trap Rock Ridge Protection Regulations

Trap Rock Ridge Regulations have been drafted. The Commission should review this language and report back to staff prior to September 27, 1997. September 24, 1997 is the date Planning and Zoning will be accepting it for their review.

This draft is based on a model ordinance which other towns such as Cheshire, Meriden and Middlefield are also adopting.

A year ago this commission voted unanimously to endorse the concept.

Motion: Vote to support and pass this on to the Planning and Zoning Commission provided that any additional comments can be forwarded to Mr. Sipperly by September 24, 1997 to be incorporated into what is being presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Moved by Ms. DeRosier; seconded by Mr. Humphrey; vote; unanimously approved.

5. Conservation Commission Brochure

Ms. Stoane has actively been working on the brochure. Progress has been made with the text and drawings. Sections of the brochure have been distributed to Conservation members for their input.

Ms. Stoane and Ms. Brawerman will work on guidelines and staff could mail these guidelines to the interested parties.

There is approximately \$2000 in the budget for the printing.

Staff will check on the status of the money designated for this project.

6. After a lengthy discussion the consensus of the Commission members present was to have to photo categories; black and white and color.

The winners were as follows:

Color

1st Place - Pamela Bentley (pool reflection)
2nd Place - Joyce Rossitter (dogwoods)
3rd Place - Timothy Cunningham (honey tree)

Black & White

Ivy H. Zabicki (cat tails)
Ivy H. Zabicki 5 x 7 (girl on bench)

Mr. Sipperly has contacted the Russell Library and they want to exhibit the photos for approximately (4) weeks.

Earle Roberts and/or Katchen Coley will work on obtaining (5) prizes for the participants.

Staff will also do a press release on the Photo Contest.

7. Pistol Creek Investor, LLC Golf Course Proposal was approved.

8. City of Meriden is moving forward with the Commissions informal recommendations regarding the Magnet School issues.

E. New Business

1. 8-24 review for conveyance of property between River Road and Bow Lane owned by Mary Adams.

The Commission was briefed by staff regarding this proposal.

A lengthy discussion occurred regarding future connection to State of Connecticut and/or the Feldspar Corporation property.

Motion: If the property is a donation, I recommend that we accept it so that if future properties such as the Feldspar Corporation and a portion of the State property are acquired in the future, this property could serve as a potential line.

Moved by Ms. Coley; seconded by Ms. DeRosier; vote approved unanimously with James Fortuna abstaining.

Jane Brawerman stated that she had completed her water monitoring for the year and they tested Minor Brook. A letter will be sent to the Health Department regarding the results.

Ms. Coley mentioned the fact that large water companies in Connecticut are considering selling off parcels of land. This could have a large impact on Connecticut Open Space.

September 25, 1997 at 10:00 A.M. there will be a meeting at D.E.P. regarding Open Space goals and future Open Space plans.

Motion to adjourn at 9:07

Moved by Mr. Fortuna; seconded by Mr. Roberts; vote approved unanimously.