

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of**  
Regular Meeting of October 6, 2005

Members Present

Sheila Stoane  
Katchen Coley  
Ellen Lukens  
James Fortuna  
Stephen Ladd  
Nancy Kiniry  
David O'Brien  
Kate Miller  
Michael Ennis  
Gerald Rankin  
Jane Brawerman

Members Absent

Howard Reid  
Laura Hall  
Len Tunderman

Others Present

Brian Robinson, WEO  
2 members of public

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call

Chairwoman Sheila Stoane called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m in Room 208 in the Municipal Building. The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

- C. Public Forum

David Bower expressed concern with the Millane Lease Agreement. Mr. Bower stated that it has not been open to the public for comment.

Brian Robinson briefly summarized the history of the lease.

- D. Minutes

Minutes of September 8, 2005

Motion to approve minutes as corrected was moved by James Fortuna and seconded by Gerald Rankin. Approved unanimously.

Motion to move open space to end of agenda was moved by Michael Ennis and seconded by James Fortuna. Approved unanimously.

- E. Old Business

**1. Trail Guides**

Sheila Stoane asked that the letter be mailed to Ms. Kelsey, Mr. Tighe, and Mr. Buck. Ms. Stoane recommended adding text that the trail is being moved and attach the CT & Parks letters.

Michael Ennis questioned how many guides remained.

Sheila Stoane requested that "Trail Guide Update" be added to the November agenda.

Michael Ennis recommended reprinting with revisions to pages 9 & 11 and work on updates for the following print.

Kate Miller recommended waiting for updates because the demand would be greater for revisions. Check on number of guides remaining. [approximately 270 on 10-7-05 count]

Motion to table printing until we have a count on trail guides remaining was moved by David O'Brien and seconded by James Fortuna. Approved unanimously.

Kate Miller recommended making guides available online. Sheila Stoane with talk to Bill Warner.

## **2. Public Relations**

Katchen Coley submitted an article on Long Hill for the September article. Michael Ennis asked for ideas for the next article. Katchen Coley volunteered to write an article on new legislature for the January edition. Kate Miller volunteered for the December article on earth friendly shopping. Michael Ennis recommended having an article on the Jonah Center for October article.

## **3. Open Space Status & Bond Referendum (moved to end)**

## **4. Guida Property**

Katchen Coley questioned the length of contract with the Greenbackers.

## **5. Stopping Lawn-Care Pesticide**

Kate Miller stated Kim O'Rourke of Public Works is interested in supervising an intern if a committee would help write the grant and give guidance.

Committee volunteers – Kate Miller and Jane Brawerman. (Kate will ask Laura Hall).

## **6. Development of Guidelines for Landscaping Plans**

Katchen Coley will report back next month with the updates.

Michael Ennis volunteered to following with letter to Tony Connor.

## **7. Millane's Lease Agreement**

Brian Robinson handed out a memo dated 10/3/05 concerning the application of fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides. Commission discussion ensued. Sheila Stone questioned if the lease agreement was voted on by the Council.

Motion to send letter to Council regarding Millane's lease was moved by Katchen Coley and seconded by Jane Brawerman. Nancy Kiniry volunteered to write the letter and the commission will review the draft.

### **E3. Open Space Status and Bond Referendum**

Motion to move to executive session was moved by Michael Ennis and seconded by Katchen Coley. Approved unanimously.

Motion to close executive session was moved by Michael Ennis and seconded by Jane Brawerman. Approved unanimously.

### **G. New Business**

Katchen Coley summarized the Arboretum trail that was proposed by the City and Wesleyan. The Urban Forestry Commission opposed the trail going through the Arboretum.

Katchen Coley asked the commission for sites where purple loosestrife is just starting to grow. Brian Robinson stated that residents are concerned about the wetlands on the new High School site where purple loosestrife is growing. Katchen Coley said that she has already spoken with those residents.

Katchen Coley questioned the City bike trail and what happened to the second half from Westlake to Newfield Street. (Article in Press under "Give Republicans a Council Majority").

Katchen Coley summarized the 9/15/05 article in the Middletown Press titled, "A Chance to Step Out".

Ellen reported that there would not be a Bioblitz in the Spring of 2007. The next one will be in Spring 2008.

Add bike trail to new business on next agenda.

The Commission thanked Brian Robinson.

### **H. Correspondence**

None

### **I. Membership**

No discussion

### **J. Adjournment**

Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.