

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

October 8, 1998

PRESENT

J. Brawerman
K. Humphrey
K. Coley
J. Fortuna
E. Lukens
Siniscalchi

ALSO PRESENT

J. Sipperly
M. Zimmitti

ABSENT

J. Beatty
M. DeRosier
L. Tundermann
D. Filer
J. Marhevka
S. Stoane

A.

Call to order:

A. Chairman Alan Siniscalchi called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

Jim Fortuna will be a voting member tonight.

Minutes:

B. Minutes of September 10, 1998 meeting.

Minutes of August 13th were tabled again.

Alan Siniscalchi would like to preview the minutes before they are sent out.

Motion: To approve the minutes of September 10, 1998 as presented.

Moved by J. Fortuna\seconded by K. Humphrey

Discussion: K. Coley would like the minutes to be clarified to say that 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

C. Officers and Committee Reports:

1. Alan Siniscalchi discussed the upcoming CACIWC Annual Meeting

Ellen Lukens and Katchen Coley were involved with a CACIWC nomination award that has been granted to Linda Bowers.

Mr. Sipperly reported that four members of the wetland agency will attend the CACIWC dinner and that 3 members of the Conservation Commission will be able to go. Katchen Coley and Alan Siniscalchi will pay for their own. James Fortuna, Ken Humphrey, and Ellen Lukens expressed interest in attending. Mr. Sipperly will handle the registrations.

Mr. Siniscalchi reported on the vacancies on this commission. Matt Zimmitti who is present tonight is interested in joining the commission and has submitted his resume. Mr. Siniscalchi has also mentioned that he has names of people who are interested and will forward those names soon.

Mr. Siniscalchi reminded the members of the CACIWC meeting October 29, 1998.

Mr. Siniscalchi also mentioned that James Fortuna should be upgraded from an alternate to a full member.

Mr. Sipperly will forward this to the Mayor's office.

Katchen Coley mentioned the Middlesex Clean Air Association issues and some discussion occurred relative to Middletown's support of this issue.

Mr. Siniscalchi reported the sad news that Maggie, Katchen Coley's dog passed away and all our sympathies are with her.

No other reports were given.

D. New Business:

1. Trap Rock Ridge Protection Regional Issues

Mr. Siniscalchi reported that on Monday the Meriden City Council voted to approve the Trap Rock Ridge maps and Regulations. It was not reported in the Middletown Press or the Hartford Courant. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Siniscalchi hopes that this will inspire our Planning & Zoning Commission to reconsider this issue. Katchen Coley would like to have a workshop with the Planning and Zoning Commission and Mark Branse the attorney who was involved with the drafting of the model regulations. Mr. Sipperly will contact Mr. Branse regarding this issue.

Future strategies were discussed.

2. Coordination of applications with adjacent towns. Mr. Siniscalchi mentioned that he does not get sufficient notice of applications. One example is the application for zoning variance to erect a cell phone tower before the Meriden ZBA. Mr. Sipperly reported that the City of Middletown did not get proper notice of this.

Mr. Siniscalchi stated that a city commission liaison from this commission would track all commissions for applications or major issues and report back to the Conservation Commission. A. Siniscalchi wants to receive the Planning and Zoning Agenda. Another example Mr. Siniscalchi mentioned was Aerospace Techniques. This application process was discussed at length.

Mr. Siniscalchi requested a memo to Bill Warner stating the Commission's request regarding receiving notice of applications and the request to receive the Planning & Zoning agenda.

A discussion ensued regarding having applicants file copies of the application at the Russell Library.

3. Riverfront Land Preservation

Mr. Sipperly discussed the developments on the Peterson Oil Purchase and also reported on the Brownfield Grant for \$200,000.

Mr. Sipperly also reported on the American Heritage River Initiative. The Harbor Improvement Agency is spear heading this Initiative. Mr. Siniscalchi would like to give the Conservation Commission an opportunity to get involved.

Motion: That the Commission authorize Mr. Siniscalchi to deal with the cell tower application and any other emergency proposals that may come up and allow him to represent the commission concerns.

Moved by Katchen Coley\seconded by J. Brawerman; moved unanimously

F. Old Business:

1. Westlake Trolley Line Bikeway

Mr. Sipperly reported that the project currently under construction is moving ahead. Mr. Sipperly reported that the Mayor, Bill Warner and himself presented the proposed Mattabasset Trolley Bikeway to Midstate. Midstate rated Middletown's project second to Durham's project. Mr. Sipperly has written a letter to Midstate explaining.

2. Conservation Commission Open Space Brochure

Sheila Stoane is not present to give an update

3. Middletown Clean Air Association

Already briefly discussed.

4. Open Space funding Program, CT DEP

3.

Mr. Siniscalchi reported on the DEP program and that all currently allocated money has already been earmarked for past applications. Mr. Sipperly discussed the strict criteria required. The next round of applications is in January.

Mr. Siniscalchi reported that there was no matching funds locally.

5. Review of Existing Open Space parcels.

A map was generated showing the tax assessor's parcels and lists were updated. The open space committee should meet to review this information.

G. Correspondence:

a. Rockfall Grant is available. Ellen Lukens discussed this briefly.

b. The Silvio O. Conte announced their 1999 Challenge Grant.

H. Public Forum:

No one present from the public in attendance.

I. Member Forum:

Jane Brawerman reported the findings on her River Watch Program.

Ms. Brawerman is conducting stream walks along the Mattabasset River Watershed.

J. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

Moved by J. Fortuna; seconded by K. Humphrey; approved unanimously

4.