

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

October 9, 1997

PRESENT

K. Humphrey
K. Coley
J. Beatty (alt.)
M. Knight
J. Fortuna (alt.)
A. Siniscalchi
J. Brawerman (7:21)
L. Tundermann

ALSO PRESENT

J. Sipperly
Environmental Planner

ABSENT

D. Filer
J. Czuba
M. DeRosier
S. Stoane
E. Roberts

A. Chairman Alan Siniscalchi called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building.

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

B. Minutes

Minutes of May 8, 1997 and June 12, 1997 are being transcribed from the tapes by staff.

Minutes of September 11, 1997 were reviewed.

Motion: To approve the September 11, 1997 minutes as presented.

Moved by J. Fortuna; seconded by M. Knight; approved unanimously with J. Beatty abstaining.

Motion: That item D-4 under Old Business be moved before committee reports.

Moved by K. Coley; seconded by K. Humphrey; approved unanimously

D. 4 Ridgetop Protection Regulations

Katchen Coley reported that the public hearing on October 8, 1997 held by the Planning and Zoning Commission was postponed because of a lack of quorum.

Ms. Coley received a phone call asking her about some written correspondence from the Meriden Conservation Commission in June.

The correspondence was a copy of a draft agreement from Jim Gibbons that towns in the Eight Mile River Watershed Study adopted.

This proposal is for all the 19 towns in Connecticut that contain traprock ridges to agree on their protection and form a mutual agreement that the towns will work together.

This agreement is non-binding and will be referenced to as the Metacomet Ridge Compact.

The draft was sent in June however no one was aware that the draft was received.

The Chairman requested that we invite Norm Zimmer to present the draft of this agreement to the Commission.

J. Sipperly will get a draft of this agreement and mail it to the Commission members.

It was the concerns of the Commission members present to endorse this proposal.

This agreement is non-binding and is not a regulatory ordinance or law.

Motion: That the Middletown Conservation Commission at this point grants support for the concept to have the 19 towns in Connecticut form an agreement to protect the trap rock ridges, unless there is a surprise in the wording in the final draft which the Commission will have the ability to review.

Moved by K. Coley; seconded by K. Humphrey; approved unanimously with A. Siniscalchi abstaining.

C. Officers and Committee Reports

1. Officer's Report

Chairman A. Siniscalchi received a letter of resignation from Mr. Czuba effective immediately.

There are two vacancies, 1 for alternate member and 1 for full member.

Please forward interested people to the Chairman for consideration.

2. Open Space Preservation

We will discuss this later on in the agenda item D.3

3. Natural Resource Inventory - J. Brawerman - no report required

2.

4. City Commissions Liaison

Chairman A. Siniscalchi mentioned that there is an effort underway to meet with the other boards and Commissions to discuss Open Space Preservation and Management.

6. CACIWC

The annual meeting will be held Thursday October 30, 1997 at 6:00 in Meriden at the Ramada Hotel.

K. Coley mentioned that a talk on vernal pools will occur in November and January. The Chairman urged people to attend if they could.

7. Mattabasset River Watershed Association - J. Brawerman

Ms. Brawerman handed out a brochure and encouraged people to join the Watershed Association.

Saturday, October 18, 1997 there will be an insect collection taking place in the river and volunteers are needed to participate.

The Conservation District has been working on a project to develop signs along the road crossing of the Mattabasset River in Berlin, Cromwell and Middletown.

The D.O.T. is helping with this project however, the Mattabasset River is also sometimes referred to as the Zebeth River. The Watershed Association wants the name of Mattabasset to be consistent throughout the area.

The governing body in each respected town will be requested to vote to formally acknowledge the permanent name change to the Mattabasset River.

Motion: This is a motion from the Conservation Commission to urge the Common Council to formally recognize the name change from the Zebeth River to the Mattabasset River for installation of signage by the D.O.T. at all appropriate road crossings as recommended by the Middlesex Conservation District and the Mattebesset River Watershed Association.

Moved by: J. Beatty; seconded by M. Knight; vote approved unanimously.

Staff will draft a resolution and/or letter to the Common Council for review at their next meeting.

D. Old Business

I. Mr. Sipperly had specific comments regarding private property access and has conveyed his concerns to the chairman. Mr. Siniscalchi has someone working out these concerns and will have some proposed language soon. This will then have to go to other departments for review and

comment.

3.

K. Coley mentioned an article in the newspaper regarding the removal of junk cars from Stantack Road by a Four Wheel Drive Club. This volunteer work was to promote and improve their image as being environmentally friendly. Norm Zimmer was a contact person for this group.

2. Open Space Jurisdiction and Management

Tabled until a joint meeting with other boards and Commissions.

3. Open Space Presentation process update

Mr. Sipperly mailed out the list of twenty-nine properties that have been reviewed and ranked.

The Chairman would like this list to stay within the privacy of the Commission as discussed at the last meeting.

Properties are evaluated during different rounds of review procedures.

The Open Space Committee then makes recommendations based on criteria set forth in an Open Space guideline manual.

These parcels need to be reviewed by the Open Space Committee for consolidation purposes.

The Chairman asked Commission members present to record on a piece of paper times they are available on the weekend to meet.

5. Brochure

The Chairman reported that Ms. DeRosier contacted him prior to the meeting and that her son finished most of the drawings.

Staff will check if the money for printing has been encumbered.

A draft of the brochure should be developed soon.

S. Stoane and J. Brawerman will put together the format and design.

6. Photo Contest - Prizes

The Chairman suggested that Commission members who are interested should try to solicit private donations from various businesses.

A total of 5 prizes are required and staff will draft a press release once the prizes are known.

E. New Business

1. Nomination for Connecticut Trails Town

Mr. Sipperly submitted a letter on the Conservation Commission's behalf to nominate The City of Middletown as a Connecticut Trail Town. The Connecticut forest and Park Association will be announcing the awards in November or December. Copies of the nomination letter were reviewed by the Commission members present.

F. Correspondence

a. Middlesex County Soil and Water Conservation District newsletter

Charlie Harris will be receiving an award from the District at their banquet dinner October 28, 1997.

b. Nature Conservancy Council and People Summer\fall publication.

G. Public Forum - no public present.

H. Member Forums - Ken Humphrey distributed an article in the New York Times regarding landowner rights.

Ken Humphrey brought attention to the Planning and Zoning hearing regarding water supply protection.

Mr. Sipperly described what had transpired at the Planning and Zoning meeting on October 8th.

The Public Hearing was continued until December at which time the Planning and Zoning Commission requested a one hour training session on aquifer protection and watershed protection.

Mr. Sipperly will send the proposed draft and what is presently in the regulations.

Other: Sunday October 19, 1997 was the date chosen by the Commission members present to meet regarding the Open Space Committee. The Chairman will set a time and place to meet and report to staff.

The fall tree planting session is upon us and the chairman reminded the Commission to plant a tree in honor of Linda Bowers. The fund is still open and A. Siniscalchi will contact the other Commissions involved.

I. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 8:42; moved by J. Fortuna; seconded by J. Beatty, approved unanimously.