

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of

Regular Meeting of October 14, 2004

Members Present

Ellen Lukens
David O'Brien
Kate Miller
James Fortuna
Stephen Ladd
Robert Nolan
Michael Ennis
Sheila Stoane
Howard Reid
Nancy Kiniry

Members Absent

Katchen Coley
Jane Brawerman
Gerald Rankin
Len Tunderman

Others Present

Cindy Jablonski

A. Call to order

1. 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.

B. Public Forum

C. Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting (September 9, 2004) were read and the following changes should be added:

1. Add in "open space status". We did not get the Wilcox Grant.
2. In Section 5, "Other", Sheila's notes of Sept. 9, 2004 to accept minutes with corrections. Motion by Nancy Kiniry/seconded by James Fortuna. Approved with Stephen Ladd & Ellen Lukens abstaining.

D. Officers and Committee Reports

None Reported

E. Old Business

1. Trail Guide

The Trail Guide is ready to print. Ellen Lukens will call the prison to check the cost of the paper. Sheila Stoane will check with Bill Warner. Recycled paper was suggested by Kate Miller.

A future event will be planned. Several ideas were discussed. Michael Ennis suggested Broad Street book selling.

2. Public Relations – Conservation Corner

Michael Ennis discussed the last article on farming and the importance of preserving open space, etc. The next article will possibly be written by Jane Harris for November. Sheila Stoane suggested a special article to emphasize a “Holiday Theme”. Kate Miller and Michael Ennis will brainstorm for a December article.

3. Open Space Status – Pine Hurst Associated Land Donation.

(Ellen....is the back-up plan for the City to buy the Wilcox property outright??)

Michael Ennis thinks that per Bill Warner, the City may still move forward. Ellen Lukens & Michael Ennis will talk to Bill Warner. Discussion ensued on using remaining \$500,000 in referendum bond to purchase Wilcox property.

Motion to bring above issue to Executive Session.
Moved by M. Ennis, seconded by Ellen Lukens

Money is still available if Wilcox are willing to sell. Discussion about other properties previously ranked and reasons to buy Wilcox.

Dave O'Brien – *“was \$900,000, but Parks and Rec took some for soccer fields. Do we think Park & Rec will go after more”?*

Sheila Stoane – *“possibly”.*

Michael Ennis expressed concerns that voting on Wilcox might forge the acquisition of development rights to Graves.

Nancy Kiniry made a motion to come out of Executive Session.

Ellen Lukens made a motion that the Conservation Commission request that the Common Council allocate the monies from the open space fund for the Wilcox property.

Motion was approved by all except Michael Ennis who opposed.

4. NU Transmission Lines

Per Sheila Stoane - Last proposal 300' buffer to CL&P from towns. Negotiations are still ongoing between Siting Council, Conservation Commission, Tower Power Group, neighbors & CL&P. 300' buffer would show buying of homes would be necessary. First priority is still underground.

5. New High School

Per Kate Miller, "On October 27, P&Z will be meeting on plans. Approval was granted on Inland Wetlands". Sheila Stoane suggested that Kate Miller draft a letter and email to members to vote on.

Michael Ennis made a motion to draft a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission to encourage them to be mindful of the environmental concerns for the new High School.

Seconded by Howard Reid.

Discussion about rain gardens ensued.

All in favor except for Nancy Kiniry who abstained.

6. POCD

Revisions were made to the first six (6) sections. Not yet voted on. December 15th will be first hearing. Section 7 has nothing the Commission is interested in. The Commission could make comments at the time of the vote. Commissioners E. Lukens, K. Miller, S. Stoane & K. Coley will look into this.

F. New Business

Bond referendum.

Goodspeed – No referendum for us within the year.

Discussion about City offering to ensure Goodspeed gets its' 45 million. The City promised 5 Million, per Bob Nolan.

G. Correspondence

1. Legal workshop on 11/17/04. Soda & pizza will be served at 5:30 and at 6:00 p.m., a presentation by Attorney Marvin Bellis of Murtha, Bulina Law Firm. Workshop to be held at City Hall and r.s.v.p. must be received by 11/10.
2. CACIWC Convention held on 11/10/04 at Mountainside, Wallingford. The 27th annual meeting and Environmental Conference. Kate Miller will check on money available for Conservation Commissioners. \$40.00 per person.
3. Rockfall Foundation is accepting applications for grants. Deadline is 12/7/04.

Ideas were discussed and were moved to the next meeting.

Ellen Lukens will write a thank you letter to sponsors, helpers at the nature gardens and letter to the editor of the Middletown Press.

H. Member Forum

Michael Ennis said Ron Klattenberg will acknowledge Katchen Coley at next Council meeting on 11/1/04. (This will be a secret surprise).

Michael will write a letter of thank you from the Conservation Commission.

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Moved by J. Fortuna/seconded by all
Approved unanimously