

Conservation Commission
MINUTES
Regular Meeting of November 8, 2007

Members Present

Ellen Lukens
Jane Brawerman
Howard Reid
Eric Mosher
Kate Miller
Katchen Coley
Steven Ladd
David O'Brien

Members Absent

Sheila Stoane
Michael Ennis
Jim Fortuna
Nancy Kiniry
Len Tunderman

Others Present

Matt Dodge, Secretary

A. Call to Order

Sheila Stoane called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm in Room B-20 in the Municipal Building.

B. Roll Call

The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

C. Public Forum

No members of the public spoke.

D. Minutes

There are no minutes of the October 11th meeting as of yet.

E. Old Business

1. Farm Viability Study

Ellen Lukens and Matt Dodge summarized the Farm Viability Grant Workshop.

A discussion ensued regarding the report due date and what it will entail.

Kate Miller - a survey should be included to consumers through the Farm Viability Grant and it would help the farmers market.

Jane Brawerman stated that the questionnaire should be a recommendation within the report.

Kate Miller - the Farm Bureau should be involved.

Katchen Coley explained the Farm Bureau places a lot of restrictions on Organic Farms.

Kate Miller - the Chamber of Commerce should be involved with the Farmer's Market and CSA's.

A discussion ensued regarding the Farmer's Market.

Jane Brawerman – follow up with Jiff to see if other communities surveyed residents.

2. Public Relations – Conservation Corner

A discussion ensued regarding who will write an article.

Katchen Coley suggested an article regarding CT grown products.

Kate Miller will write an article on “Connecticut Store”.

A discussion ensued regarding Green Buying and the city’s website and other websites.

Kate Miller asked for suggestions to be emailed to her.

Katchen Coley will write March article.

Kate Miller has a student that wrote a paper on Global Climate Change and Culture – maybe for April or May.

Ellen Lukens – we will discuss January article at the next meeting.

3. Open Space Status

The commission discussed the Bond Referendum and recruiting votes and when money should be spent.

Katchen Coley explained her conversations with local farmers on voting day. Lee’s & Grave’s support our programs as well as other farmers.

Kate Miller and Katchen Coley discussed how many Wesleyan students voted.

Ellen Lukens –we owe a debt of gratitude to Michael Ennis regarding his work for Open Space and farmers.

A discussion ensued regarding the bond referendum \$2 million (\$2,000,000). Amount possibly changed from a higher number

Ellen Lukens – John Hall did a fabulous job.

Matt Dodge initiated a discussion regarding the city’s stand on not moving forward with the Jonah Center trail project.

A discussion ensued on why the city is not moving forward and how to proceed.

Ellen Lukens proposes the following to be written in an official letter to the mayor. “The Conservation Commission is in full support of the North End Peninsula, Canoe/Kayak Launch and Hiking Trails, \$50,000 Grant awarded by the CT DEP and urges the city to accept the grant.”

David O’Brien asked what costs will be incurred after the project is done.

A discussion ensued regarding where additional funds are coming from and what needs to be done to maintain the project.

Katchen Coley asked if Matt can search to find example of trail on topped landfill – Hull Island, and possible location in Seattle.

Multiple discussions ensued regarding where historical documents regarding the landfill are.

Katchen Coley motioned to approve a letter from the Conservation Commission to the Mayor, signed by Sheila Stoane, Chairwoman, and approved by Kate Miller and Eric Mosher and cc’d to PCD and Public Works. Stephen Ladd seconds the motion. Unanimously approved.

3. Open Space Status

Ellen Lukens explains what the Open Space Subcommittee does and asks who would like to be on it. Howard Reid, Steven Ladd, Katchen Coley, Ellen Lukens, Eric Mosher and David O’Brien volunteered.

Ellen Lukens asked if the commission wants separate committees for open space and farmland and how fast do we want to move? Have Bill Warner and Matt Dodge attend next meeting.

4. Open-Space Signs

Will discuss at another meeting.

F. New Business

Jane Brawerman brought up Old Mill Crossing wetland application and its status.

Matt Dodge explained that it passed.

A discussion ensued to create motion to write a letter to P&Z stating Conservation Commission's position regarding the property being on Proposed Open Space Plan.

A motion for Matt Dodge to write letter communicating concerns of bridge over Coginchaug at Route 66 / West Street, Old Mill Crossing was passed.

G. Correspondence

H. Member Forum

Katchen Coley discussed other trail and grant initiatives.

Note * Add to January 2008 agenda – Leslie Lewis to speak regarding trail grants.

Jane Brawerman – use impervious pavers for ADA parking spaces at Vets Park.

Katchen Coley will provide more information on pervious asphalt and a contact with the company.

Ellen Lukens would like to make a motion for the Conservation Commission to support "Feet to the Fire" program at landfill. Seconded by Jane Brawerman. Approved unanimously.

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:10 PM was moved by Steven Ladd and seconded by David O'Brien. Approved unanimously.