

**MINUTES OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2002**

MINUTES

PRESENT

S. Stoane
E. Lukens
D. O'Brien
H. Reid
J. Brawerman
N. Kiniry @ 7:25 p.m.
M. Ennis @ 7:40 p.m.

ABSENT

L. Tundermann.
G. Rankin
K. Coley
L. Holder
J. Fortuna
G. Rankin

OTHERS PRESENT

J. Sipperly, Staff
S. LoGatto
R. Cartwarch
D. Carhart

A. Call to Order

1. Roll Call

Sheila Stoane, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in Room 208, at the Municipal Building. The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

7:15 p.m. – EON – Environmental Organizing Network is an environmental organization that was just formed. Rachael was interested in doing hands on activities. They are thinking about doing environmental awareness programs. Mr. Sipperly suggested an Earth Day Celebration. Sheila Stoane mentioned the trail guide: They meet on Monday at 9:00 p.m. they have broken down into four groups: 1.) Open Space education, 2.) energy group – energy efficiency on campus, 3.) waste group, 4.) food group – genetic engineering and other ideas are welcome. Pesticides used around the campus, indoor and outdoor are other topics.

Ellen Lukens moved to move the public forum on the agenda to this time slot.

Seconded by J. Brawerman, approved unanimously

J. Brawerman mentioned the Land Trust, who also sponsors work parties; perhaps the students can work with the land trust.

Susan LaGotto, resident of Wesleyan Hills is concerned with Laurel Grove subdivision.

B. Minutes

Minutes of October 9, 2002 were reviewed.

Motion: To approve the minutes as amended

Moved by J. Brawerman\seconded by H. Reid

D. Old Business

1. Plan of Conservation and Development meeting October 9, 2002.

The meeting on Oct. 9th was well attended and The Conservation Commission generated their comments via Len Tundermann through a previous PowerPoint presentation.

C. Officers Reports and Committees

E. Lukens reported on the Council Meeting and Planning & Zoning meetings held last night. The Council approved the grant process to DEP and Planning and Zoning only had to approve the Wesleyan property, which they did already at a previous meeting.

D. Old Business

1. Plan of Conservation and Development meeting of October 9, 2002.

Mr. Sipperly stated that it was reported to him by Bill Warner, that Len Tundermann did a great job presenting the Commission's comments for consideration. The consultants have the information and it was represented that many of the comments will be addressed.

2. The Mattabasset Management Plan

Mr. Sipperly would like to get members from the Common Council and Planning & Zoning to serve on the Committee. Jane Brawerman will ask Paul Woodworth to contact the Mayor and Barbara Plum directly for volunteers.

3. Trail Guide

Most of the descriptions and maps have been submitted. A preface needs to be written by the Mayor for the book; staff will develop this with the Mayor. Mr. Sipperly will check in with Beth Lapin for an update.

4. Public Relations – Conservation Corner

Mr. Sipperly reported that he has tried a number of times to contact the Editor of the Middletown Press to work out the details of the Conservation Corner. Erik Hasselberg was the editor. Mr. Sipperly originally talked to him about this concept.

5. Farm Report

Mr. O'Brien stated that he reviewed the typed report by Paula Tranchina and he is making some corrections. Discussion ensued regarding how to acknowledge the farmers in Middletown. Once the report is finished, we should contact the paper for a story.

6. Open Space Status

Mr. Sipperly reported that he was told the reimbursement for Sumner Brook from the state would be 58% not 65% of the cost of the purchase price. Mr. Warner is working with Martha Vernlund for a contract and sales agreement. The building on the Peterson Oil Property will need to be removed prior to state monies reimbursing the City.

The Conservation Commission discussed starting its own list of "preferred" properties to acquire instead of soliciting land to purchase. The Open Space subcommittee will be reformed.

At the next meeting, the agenda will include an open space subcommittee item. Nancy Kiniry, David O'Brien and Michael Ennis agreed to assist with this committee.

Sheila Stoane requested that staff mail out the criteria list to everyone.

7. Open Space Bonding Referendum Question.

Sheila Stoane thanked Mike, Nancy and Katchen specifically and everyone else who assisted in the get out the vote campaign. Mr. Sipperly stated that it was an overwhelming vote of support by a 3:1 margin.

Ellen Lukens stated that going back to the open space items, she is concerned that if we don't finalize the Vernlund and Peterson properties that future applications may be affected.

8. DEP Open Space Grant 2002

Mr. Sipperly reported that he delivered to 2 open space grants to DEP today, one for Wesleyan and the other for Wilcox.

E. New Business

1. Conservation Commission Meeting with Planning and Zoning and Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency.

S. Stoane is coordinating a meeting with the 2 chairman of the other committees to discuss setting up a time to meet jointly as commissions. Items to discuss include land use regulations, site plan reviews, and environmentally sensitive subdivisions.

A discussion ensued that the site plan review committee be reformed to track pending applications.

F. Public Forum

Susan Lagotta from the public was present to learn some things about Middletown and get more involved.

G. Correspondence

Mr. Sipperly reported that the Rockfall Foundation is soliciting grants.

Connecticut Farmers Initiative will be put on the next agenda.

Regarding this item to have farmers utilize town open space, the City Attorney's Office should be contacted to check deeds for restrictions.

H. Members Forum

E. Lukens thinks that we should look for environmentally friendly funding agencies and seek private donations and/or public funds.

The possibility of starting a foundation was discussed.

The City Attorney and Jim Reynolds, Finance Director should be contacted to see if this can happen or if we could work through an existing foundation such as the Middlesex County Foundation.

I. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Moved by J. Brawerman\seconded by N. Kiniry

Approved unanimously