

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of
Regular Meeting of November 18, 2004

Members Present

Ellen Lukens
David O'Brien
Kate Miller
James Fortuna (8:04)
Robert Nolan
Michael Ennis
Howard Reid
Nancy Kiniry (7:48)
Katchen Coley
Jane Brawerman

Members Absent

Sheila Stoane
Stephen Ladd
Gerald Rankin
Len Tunderman

Others Present

Brian Robinson, staff

A. Call to order

1. Roll Call.

Acting chairman Michael Ennis called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m in Room 208 in the Municipal Building. The roll was called and a quorum was determined.

Motion: To approve M. Ennis as chairman for the meeting.
Moved by R. Nolan/seconded by D. O'Brien
Approved unanimously / none opposed

B. Public Forum

No public comment

C. Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting (October 14, 2004) were read.

Motion: To approve the minutes of October 14, 2004
Moved by R. Nolan/seconded by M. Ennis
Approved unanimous with J. Brawerman and K. Coley abstaining.

D. Officers and Committee Reports

Ellen Lukens stated that the sub-committee has not yet met (PCD Advisory Committee). E. Lukens proposed the meeting to be held on December 23, 2004.

E. Old Business

Motion: To move POCD and the High School committee to later in the meeting under Item #5 - "Other" .

Approved unanimously

1. Trail Guide

Katchen Coley stated that the trail guide is in draft-print form. Ellen Lukens stated she called the prison and we have to provide our own paper (60 lb. weight) and that the prison is ready to print the trail guides. Kate Miller said that the prison does not charge for printing.

Nancy Kiniry arrives at 7:48 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of copies needed and how to obtain the paper. Offset printing will be required. The prison will also do the binding. Recycled paper was suggested. Nancy Kiniry recommended Staples for paper donations. Middlesex Community College and Wesleyan were also recommended. E. Lukens, S. Stoane and N. Kiniry (paper committee) are working on getting paper donations.

2. Public Relations – Conservation Corner

The next article will possibly be written by Kate Miller. Jane Harris's November article will come up in the next few days.

3. Open Space Status

E. Lukens reported that she has spoken to a member of the U.S. Agriculture Dept and there are still funds available and that the City should resubmit their application. E. Lukens asked staff to submit the application. Mike Ennis will follow up with Bill Warner.

James Fortuna arrived at 8:04 p.m.

Katchen Coley reported that Charlie Auger of Middlefield has interest in the property on the city border.

4. NU Transmission Lines

Nancy Kiniry reported that the other meeting is coming up soon.

Brian Robinson introduced himself as interim staff for the Commission.

5. Other

1. New High School

Kate Miller gave a brief summary of the high school approval. Katchen Coley said that the wetlands Commission received an award from CACIWIC for their stance on the high school project. Discussion ensued about the building design and questioned the incorporation of green design.

2. POCD

Ellen Lukens gave an update on the draft open space section. Ellen Lukens proposed reviewing the land use section and meet with Bill Warner.

Motion: To move Member Forum before New Business
Moved by M. Ennis/seconded by E. Lukens
Approved unanimously

F. Member Forum

1. Katchen Coley reported that Wesleyan has hired a new ecologist and that Wesleyan is planning an "Earth Day" celebration. K. Coley recommended debuting the trail guide on Earth Day. Discussion ensued over ideas for the Commission's involvement with Earth Day. (University of Connecticut Museum)
2. Ellen Lukens gave a summary of the CACIWC conference. E. Lukens stated the Audubon has done a study for migratory birds along the Connecticut River and they expressed their interest in the Maromas area. K. Coley summarized the Avalon Bay case workshop regarding the Wetland Commission's jurisdiction over the upland review area.

David O'Brien left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Kate Miller summarized the forestry workshop regarding the state legislative and the municipalities implementing ordinances on tree cutting.

3. Jane Brawerman reported that brush and organic material have been dumped at the Highland / Pine Ravine (northern slope off Bretton Road). The Commission discussed possible solutions including a "No Dumping" sign.

G. New Business

1. Bond Referendum

Michael Ennis recommended that the Commission write a letter to the Mayor and the Council to encourage a bond referendum for open space for 3-5 million dollars.

Motion: To write the letter to the Mayor and Council.

Moved by M. Ennis/seconded by K. Coley

Commission discussion ensued.

Michael Ennis is to draft a letter and the Committee is to review.

Staff is to get state definition on "open space".

Approved unanimously

H. Correspondence

The Rockfall Foundation is accepting applications for grants. The deadline is December 7, 2004.

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.

Moved by J. Fortuna/seconded by M. Ennis

Approved unanimously