

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

MINUTES

November 18, 1999

PRESENT

Kim. Porter .
Elisabeth Holder
Ken Humphrey
Ellen Lukens
Sheila Stoane
Katchen Coley
Alan Siniscalchi
James Fortuna @ 8:00p.m.

STAFF PRESENT

J. Sipperly, Staff

ABSENT

Jane Brawerman
Matt Graves
Len Tundermann
Matt Zimmitti
Jim Marhevka
Jon Beatty
Marie DeRosier

A. Call to order

Alan Siniscalchi, Vice-Chairman assumed the Chairmanship in the absence of Len Tundermann. A. Siniscalchi called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m., in the Community Room of the New Police Department on Main Street.

1. Roll Call

A. Siniscalchi called the roll and a quorum was determined. All members present are full voting members tonight.

A. Siniscalchi welcomed the Commission's newest members Kim Porter and Elisabeth Holder.

Ms. Holder reported that she is a science teacher in Rocky Hill and has a geology background and is concerned with environmental issues facing Middletown.

Ms. Porter works for an environmental firm, Marin Environmental in Haddam. She also has a geology background, and is interested in getting her "feet wet" in environmental issues in Middletown. She is interested in particular in open space issues.

A. Siniscalchi asked that the new members consider serving on a standing committee such as Open Space, Natural Resources and City Commission Liason.

B. Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of September 9, 1999.

Ellen Lukens asked that on Page two, Ed Markuch land, discussion be clarified. At the Sept. 9th meeting Ellen asked the status of the Markuch land deal, it was assumed by the Commission in general that the council did not have to act on this, but staff found out, after the meeting that the council does have to approve the conveyance.

A. Siniscalchi, top of page 2, 2nd paragraph, Alan made a reference that “he thought the chairman would want to set time aside to discuss an issue.” and secondly, the spelling for CACIWC is CACIWC.

“Alan also asked Jim Sipperly about the status of the outstanding 1998-99 minutes. Jim reported that he and his staff are continuing to work on these.

Motion: To approve the minutes as amended.

Moved by K. Coley\Seconded by E. Lukens

Approved unanimously with K. Porter and E. Holder abstaining

B. Officers and Committee Reports

Mr. Sipperly reported that the Wetland Commission was approached by the Middlesex Soil and Water Conservation Service to map the vernal pools in Middletown. Setphanie Shakofsky will discuss this approach and conduct a presentation at the December 1, 1999 meeting of the Wetland Commission. A letter will go out reminding people of this meeting.

Mr. Sipperly also spoke regarding the American Heritage River Initiative and the possibility of it being in jeopardy. A bill was submitted to extinguish the initiative and eliminate the program. Members should write Senators and Congressman supporting this Initiative.

A. Siniscalchi mentioned that this April is the 30th anniversary of Earth Day and that he has started planning some events for Earth Day 2000. He suggested that we include this as an agenda item through May.

C. Old Business

1. Conservation Commission Open Space Brochure

Sheila Stoane showed an example of a page and text page which will be in the book. She also showed examples of a whole page map that needs to be split apart when the book is tightly bound. Sheila passed copies of this for the Commission members to review. She would like comments back ASAP. Ms. Porter agreed to assist in this project.

2. Fees in lieu of Open Space

Mr. Sipperly reported that he has received regulations from other cities and towns and is compiling a draft regulation for Middletown. This will be completed in the spring for review.

3. Mattabasset Stakeholders Meetings

Mr. Sipperly reported on the stakeholder's meetings. When the meeting times are received, Mr. Sipperly will contact commission members to make sure someone from the commission is represented if he cannot make the meetings.

4. Other Open Space

Much discussion ensued regarding the Open Space Program and how to proceed. The consensus of the Commission members present was to start a new process to submit new properties and owners. The Open Space Sub-committee will meet to pursue this issue further.

Motion: To authorize staff to put out a RFP for new properties for acquisition under the Open Space proposal and pursue a Legal Notice and newspaper article to promote this initiative.

Moved by Ellen Lukens\seconded by Sheila Stoane
Approved unanimously

D. New Business

1. Discussion of Commission Issues (A. Siniscalchi)

This item was tabled for the next meeting.

2. Fall Hike

Jim Sipperly added this to the agenda to get some exposure for the Commission. Due to the lateness of the year, this will likely be rolled into the Earth Day hike in the Spring.

3. New Members

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

G. Public Forum

No Public forum held.

H. Member Forum

Mr. Siniscalchi stated that he would like to see any correspondence sent regarding the Plan of Conservation and Development. Mr. Sipperly will try to get copies of information that was passed along.

S. Stoane mentioned the possibility of getting a small grant to help with the Open Space Brochure project . Some discussion ensued.

Motion: To authorize an application to the Rockfall foundation for December 15, 1999 for funding of the brochure and related environmental education activities..

Moved by S. Stoane\seconded by Liz Holder
approved unanimously

I. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn @ 8:44 p.m.

moved by S. Stoane\J. Fortuna

approved unanimously