

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY COMMITTEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

November 26, 1991

PRESENT

J. Brawerman

C. Harris

E. Kelsey

R. Klattenberg

A. Siniscalchi

L. Tundermann

K. Coley (not on committee)

G. Colegrove (guest)

ABSENT

G. Russo

E. Patton

J. Brawerman opened the meeting of the Natural Resource Inventory Committee at 7:15 p.m. in Room B-20 of the Municipal Building.

Midstate Regional Planning Agency Coordinated Strategy - Mapping Project

J. Brawerman indicated that the Committee would like to determine what input it can provide to Midstate for this project. Geoff Colegrove, Executive Director of Midstate Regional Planning Agency (MRPA), gave an overview of how he plans to proceed with the project. He will start with the overall city inventory and then do the South Middletown Conservation Plan. He indicated that he thinks we should digitize soils for the entire city, not just the undeveloped areas. As this can be accomplished with little extra work at no additional cost to the city, it was agreed that it should be done. J. Brawerman mentioned that she felt the Committee could provide assistance with two of the maps listed in the MRPA-City of Middletown contract scope of services for the town-wide study. These include the maps covering areas of special significance for both cultural and natural features. She passed around notes from the natural features open discussion held at the November 14, 1991 Conservation Commission meeting, and indicated that that is the type of information we could provide for these maps. The notes were reviewed and discussed. G. Colegrove agreed that this type of assistance would be helpful. He recommended that we verify the information, document the source, and draw the items on USGS quads.

A brief discussion took place concerning the accuracy of certain information, like wetland boundaries, that would be digitized for this project. It was stressed that the city-wide inventory would be used as a planning tool, not for site specific evaluation for regulation. For example, location of a wetland resource in the computerized inventory would simply raise a flag and further investigation would be required. G. Colegrove indicated that he plans to get started with soils, floodplain and property line information. A. Siniscalchi asked whether surficial geology would be included in the inventory. After some discussion G. Colegrove agreed to include a surficial geology map which was listed as optional in the

contract.

G. Colegrove requested that a systematic review process be formalized which would include the Natural Resource Inventory Committee and Planning and Zoning. During the data input process infrequent meetings would suffice. We decided on a first meeting in February, and monthly meetings after that. J. Brawerman will contact Bill Warner to schedule the February meeting. G. Colegrove indicated that he will begin work at the end of December or in early January.

The Committee took a break at 8:50 p.m. and resumed at 9:00 p.m.

Purpose, Content and Format of Natural Resource Inventory

J. Brawerman discussed the need for a narrative report to accompany the maps that would be produced by Midstate. This would be something that could be made available to the public that would document the findings of the inventory study, make recommendations concerning resources which should be a priority for protection, and present a recommended conservation plan for the city. Selected maps could be attached.

E. Kelsey expressed concern about the extent of the planned inventory vis-a-vis the Commission's mandate and the authority given to us in the statute. It was decided that this issue would be settled when we meet with Terry Tondro.

J. Brawerman showed as an example a report that was prepared for the town of Hebron by the Connecticut River Watershed Council as the culmination of a natural resource inventory project. It was agreed that it would be used as a model. R. Klattenberg indicated that we might be able to get Northeast Utilities to provide in-kind printing services for the inventory report.

Data Collection Effort

J. Brawerman reviewed the list of potential information sources included on page 3 of the notes from the natural features open discussion and requested volunteers to contact and collect information from these sources. Meeting participants volunteered to follow-up and suggested additional sources.

The next meeting of the Natural Resource Inventory Committee will be scheduled at the regular December Conservation Commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jane L. Brawerman, Chairperson

APPROVED ON: