

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 9, 1999**

PRESENT

Jon Beatty .  
J. Fortuna  
K. Humphrey .  
    Len Tundermann Matt Graves  
    Matt Zimmitti  
Elizabeth Holder  
Kenneth Humphrey  
Ellen Lukens  
Kim Porter  
Alan Siniscalchi, Vice Chairman

STAFF PRESENT

Jim Sipperly, Staff  
Michelle Dabrowski, student

ABSENT

J. Marhevka  
M. 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 7:12 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. He informed all three alternates that they may vote as regular members.

B. Minutes

1. Minutes of November 18, 1999

Commission members discussed minor corrections to these minutes including removal of M. DeRosier's name from the "present" column and correcting J. Beatty's name.

These also included three suggestions by A. Siniscalchi: 1.) Insert two sentences at the end of the minutes section (p.2) "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. 2.) In the last sentence in the Officers and Committee Reports (p.2) change the words "we should start" to "he has started," and add a sentence "He suggested that we include this as an agenda item through May." 3.) Add the words "for funding of the brochure and related environmental education activities" to the end of the motion regarding the Rockfall application (p.4). J. Beatty moved and J. Fortuna seconded a motion to accept these minutes, as amended.

The motion was unanimously approved with J. Beatty and M. DeRosier abstaining.

### C. Officer and Committee Reports

A. Siniscalchi gave a brief report on the activities of the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC) and inquired into the status of the three standing committees. He again encouraged all members to participate and noted that the City Commission Liaison and Natural Resources Inventory Committees have not met for some time.

During a discussion of proposed City Commission Liaison activities, Jon Beatty reported on the perplexing opposition received by the Soil and Water Conservation District in discussing their proposed vernal pool mapping survey.

Ken Humphrey moved and Katchen Coley seconded, that the Conservation Commission send a letter of support to the District for their valuable proposal. The motion passed unanimously with E. Lukens abstaining.

E. Lukens reported on the proposed activities of the Open Space Preservation Committee including the possibility of submitting another application for state Open Space funding due March 31, 2000.

### D. Old Business

#### 1. Conservation Commission Open Space Brochure

E. Lukens provided an update on the brochure. She emphasized the need for additional volunteers to verify the accuracy of the maps (and condition of the blazing) by walking all trails of each park or conservation area.

#### 2. Fees in lieu of Open Space

Discussion on this item was postponed pending the results of additional research being conducted by Planning, Conservation and Development Office and others.

#### 3. Mattabasset Stakeholders Meetings

A. Siniscalchi reviewed the activities of the various stakeholders committees and encouraged attendance by commission members.

#### 4. Earth Day 2000

A. Siniscalchi reviewed options for Middletown activities and distributed literature prepared by original (1970) Earth Day founder Dennis Hayes current organization.

Alan outlined some of the activities proposed by Mr. Hayes (including a globally-coordinated celebration) and suggested that our commission coordinate our efforts if possible. K. Coley moved and K. Porter seconded a motion to coordinate our activities with the international celebration. the motion was unanimously approved.

E. New Business:

1. Changing meeting dates to the second Monday of the month. A. Siniscalchi circulated a calendar sheet to facilitate discussion of alternate meeting dates while reviewing relevant bylaws sections and other appropriate procedures. Since no alternative date suitable for everyone was apparent, Commission members decided not to change the standard meeting date. Instead the commission will consider changing the date on selected months.

2. Plan of Conservation and Development

E. Lukens expressed her concerns over the limited opportunity provided to Commission members by the consultant group to ensure that conservation issues are incorporated in the Plan. J. Beatty moved that the commission send a letter listing various issues of importance to be addressed in the consultant's report and plan. The motion, which was seconded by M. DeRosier, was unanimously approved.

3. Other

No additional new business items were discussed.

F. Correspondence

Commission members discussed the correspondence exchanged between Guy Russo, Middletown Director of Water and Sewer, and John Hibbard, executive Director of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, regarding possible restrictions on the use of the Mattabasset trail in the Higby watershed area. After a brief discussion J. Beatty moved, and E. Lukens seconded, that the Commission express to Mr. Russo our interest in seeing this important segment in Connecticut's Blue Trail System remain open to use.

G. Public Forum: None present

H. Member Forum

M. DeRosier expressed her long-standing concern over the safety hazards posed by the old barn and well on the Tynan property. J. Beatty moved that the commission express its support for the mitigation of these hazards to the appropriate municipal departments, which was seconded by K. Coley. The motion was unanimously approved.

I. Humphrey discussed his concerns over the environmental impact of experimental food crops. K. Coley pointed out important conservation issues currently posted on the internet.

I. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting made by J. Beatty and seconded by J. Fortuna was unanimously approved at 8:43 p.m.