

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

DECEMBER 13TH, 1990

PRESENT

R. Klattenberg, Chairman  
A. Siniscalchi  
C. Harris  
C. Peterson  
E. Kelsey  
K. Coley  
M. Giamei  
L. Tundermann  
T. Christopher  
J. Brawerman (arrived 7:35)

ALSO PRESENT

Arlene Rich

ABSENT

S. Faraci  
J. Nolfi  
G. Russo  
J. Chace

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairman R. Klattenberg at 7:16 p.m. in Room B-20 of the Municipal Building. Alternate member T. Christopher was seated in place of absent regular members.

Draft Minutes

July 12th, 1990.....Tabled until next regular meeting on January 10, 1991 to give E. Kelsey an opportunity to establish what was the issue that led to the original tabling of these minutes.

September 13, 1990..The minutes having been corrected as voted in the meeting of November 27th, K. Coley moved to approve them, C. Peterson seconded the motion. The vote in favor of approval was unanimous, with E. Kelsey abstaining.

October 12, 1990 Special Meeting.... C. Harris moved to accept the corrected minutes, C. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 6 to 0, with R. Klattenberg, T. Christopher and E. Kelsey abstaining.

October 30, 1990 Special Meeting.....K. Coley moved to approve these minutes, L. Tundermann seconded the motion; the minutes were approved by a vote of 5 to 0 with A. Siniscalchi, L. Tundermann, T. Christopher and E. Kelsey abstaining.

November 2, 1990.....Tabled until the next regular meeting on

January 10, 1991

J. Brawerman arrived at 7:35 and was seated in place of absent regular members.

November 8, 1990.....C. Harris moved to approve these minutes, C. Peterson seconded the motion; the minutes were approved by a vote of 8 to 0, with L. Tundermann and E. Kelsey abstaining.

November 27, 1990, Special Meeting.....Minutes tabled until next regularly scheduled meeting on January 10th, 1991, so that they could be corrected before distribution.

#### Officers' Reports

A. Siniscalchi, as vice chairman thanked the commission for its confidence in him, and for the opportunity it had given him to serve in the past year.

R. Klattenberg, Chairman, reported progress in the search for an environmental manager for the City of Middletown, noting that the second round of interviews of candidates had been completed that afternoon.

R. Klattenberg also reported on the status of the Conservation Commission's budget, noting that almost \$4,000 remained from 1990's funds.

A. Siniscalchi, chairman of the Open Space Committee, again thanked the Commission for an opportunity to do some very important work in the past year.

L. Tundermann, Chairman of the City Commissions Liaison Committee, reported that having come through a very busy period the Committee was looking forward to a hiatus in its work. He further thanked all the Committee members.

#### Old Business

Miner Hills Golf Course -- A. Siniscalchi disqualified self from the next item on the agenda, excusing himself from the meeting.

R. Klattenberg reported to the Commission that at a public hearing on December 2, John Ott had given him an Environmental Assessment of Proposed Wetland Activities that had been prepared by engineer David Lord. Mr. Ott had developed this document (which R. Klattenberg had distributed to the Commission members previous to this meeting) in response to the Commission's request for an environmental impact statement.

E. Kelsey expressed a need for relevant maps, asking that they be distributed to the Commission.

C. Harris complained of the incomplete soil descriptions in the assessment.

Chairman R. Klattenberg waived the rules to allow Arlene Rich, a member of the public, to address the Commission with questions of concern to Miner Street residents.

a. She questioned the soil analysis included in the assessment, expressing a concern about flooding to the surrounding area as a result of the proposed development.

b. Citing the four tees called for by the development proposal, Ms. Rich suggested that the construction of these would require large amounts of fill, and would obstruct water flow.

c. Ms. Rich pointed out that the existing plan (established by the D.E.P.) for the development of the adjoining Brainerd had disallowed utilization of that property's Miner Street portion because of the troubled nature of the site.

d. Ms. Rich questioned the value to wildlife of the pond Mr. Ott proposes to create on his golf course.

C. Peterson excused himself from the meeting at 8:15.

R. Klattenberg questioned how the assessment reached its conclusions, expressing a need for substantiation.

C. Harris noted that the assessment cited no references for the facts quoted, and expressed concern over the source of the assessment's information.

M. Giamei pointed out the assessment's general lack of technical information.

T. Christopher moved to alert the Inland Wetlands Commission to the various issues that the members of the Conservation Commission believe are not adequately addressed in the report prepared by David Lord, The Environmental Assessment for the Miner Hills Golf Course. The concerns include:

1. That the report lacks documentation.
2. That the report is incomplete because it lacks complete soil characteristics, information relevant to the impact of pesticides and fertilizers, and does not include any basis for its assessment (on page 6) of the significance of the site as wildlife habitat.

The motion was seconded by J. Brawerman and passed unanimously, with the abstention of E. Kelsey.

Natural Resource Mapping -- Chairperson J. Brawerman reported that she had scheduled an appointment with A. Guinness on Saturday, December 15, to respond to her request for information on nature trails within the City of Middletown.

#### Correspondence

L. Tundermann suggested that the Commission forward information concerning its work on open space mapping to The Habitat. J. Brawerman agreed to contact that publication's editor. J. Brawerman also agreed to forward information on Middletown's open space map to the D.E.P. for incorporation into the G.I.S. system.

E. Kelsey read a letter from the D.E.P. concerning construction on Route 66; this was a response to E. Kelsey's complaint about sediment washing into the Coginchaug River. The letter reported that the D.O.T. had been instructed to clean the affected storm catch basins. E. Kelsey pointed out that the ground at the construction site had not been stabilized, so that the erosion would continue to be an ongoing problem. She reported requesting a letter from the wetlands enforcement officer detailing how the Commission should address future problems with the D.O.T.

#### Member Forum

R. Klattenberg distributed an updated list of Commission members.

E. Kelsey announced that she had filed a grievance with the City of Middletown concerning the Commission's failure to send her mailings of minutes, agendas and memorandums.

R. Klattenberg reported having received her letter and that the matter was now in the hands of the Mayor and the City Attorney

#### Adjournment

At 9:57, a motion, seconded and adopted unanimously, adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted  
Thomas Christopher  
Acting Secretary