



**Trumbull Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, September 30, 2015
7:00 pm
Nichols Room**

Present: Chairman Mary Ellen Lemay; Commissioners Joanne Parsons, Dale Parsons, Lars Jorgensen, Don Watson

Absent: Commissioners Jim Sullivan and Tim Coughlin

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Lemay.

Past Minutes: Motion was made by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to approve the minutes of August 26, 2015 as written. Approved unanimously.

Calendar Updates

1. GPS monitor class will be held in UCONN on 10/30. It trains you to use your smart phone, IPAD, etc. to monitor and do an inventory of land, conservation easements, trail systems, etc. This could be useful for the commission for a tree canopy study or the tree inventory. Once the information is gathered it is transferred into a laptop.
2. CACIWC Annual Conference in Wallingford on 11/14 – one of the workshops is the GPS monitor class at UCONN. Mrs. Parsons noted she has been invited to speak at the meeting about the grant received. She invited the other commissioners to join her to speak on their particular portion of the project. She also noted the Milford rain garden at Parsons Government Center is being submitted for an award. This has been very well maintained.
3. CT Urban Forest Conference in Southington on 10/28.
4. Next Conservation Commission meeting is 11/4.
5. Inland Wetlands Applications – Mr. Parsons noted the applications for the meeting are not out until three or four days before the meeting for review. The applications are considered new business and are not voted on until the next meeting so there is time for a review and comment, if necessary.
6. CTASLA News has a job opening for Save the Sound for an administrator of green projects.

319 Grant for Long Hill Green Update

Mr. Watson noted the application has been reviewed favorably but letters have not been sent. An email was sent to Frank Smeriglio and Jamie Bratt to confirm the \$60,000 match. He noted there was a meeting held with approximately six representatives from the CT DEEP where the lack of staffing and the defunding of DEEP was discussed. Messages should be sent to elected officials to restore funding.

CACIWC and Rivers Alliance follow the legislature and every legislative proposal related to water. Their annual conference was in Ridgefield recently and it had some of the top people in the state giving legal briefings. Others spoke on chemical pesticides, threat to low flow stream, etc. They spoke on the state water plan which the governor has commissioned a council which includes the water companies. Conservation is private due to sensitivity of discussions. FOI requests have been presented for information. Mr. Watson noted everyone speaks well of the current commissioner of DEEP.

Old Mine Park 2

This grant is available until 2017-2018 and is in the hands of Mr. Paris.

DEEP Open Space Grant

Mrs. Bratt discussed this at a meeting recently with Stuart McCarthy, the new Parks and Recreation Director, and Mr. Paris. The five acre parcel map was reviewed. This allows review of substantial properties or ones that can be purchased. This grant requires that if there is a piece of property that the town wants to buy, it will more likely be considered if it is contiguous to another larger parcel. A potential list included

- a. Daniels Farm Road Development – project formally withdrawn. Attached to the river and accessible from the road. There is also another piece to the north that looks like it connects to open space. There is also a mill property which could be connected to the space.
- b. Moorefield Herb Farm – meets Mischia Park.
- c. White Plains Road near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial towards the 25 Connector
- d. Hardy Lane – attached to the Pequonnock River Valley
- e. Property by Nothnagale Field.

Applications for the grant will be accepted in May. It will be very competitive. All land must be accessible to the public. It was suggested site visits be done on these properties by the commission.

Tree Inventory

A detailed parcel map which shows the trees was sent by Steve Early to Tim Coughlin so that he could compare the inventory with the data he has collected. It was noted there is a problem with reception and the GPS system which makes accuracy difficult.

CTAC Tree Canopy Study

Each town put in money to have the study done from the University of Vermont. Brian Carey, who spearheaded the report, stated the study was complete last October. The Commission was never told this. The report was emailed to Mrs. Lemay. The data is so dense that the Greater Bridgeport Council representative is working to organize it for each town. The report is for the region that was distributed to the Commission. This is another basis to do a tree plan. It shows the current healthy tree canopy location and the best locations for improving the tree canopy. It does not reflect the health of the tree. We do need to do an assessment of the health of the tree canopy. Mrs. Lemay asked Mark Getts to come to the meeting in November and speak about a strategy for the Tree City which could be supported by the tree inventory.

Tree Management Plan

Mrs. Parsons updated the plan as requested at the previous meetings. Additional discussion was held regarding more updates. This plan will be revised again by Mrs. Lemay and Mrs. Parsons to include the additional information. Mr. Marsilio has requested a copy. Mrs. Lemay noted that after the meeting on Hilltop Drive, they were told the plan would be ready after the summer months.

Changes of Parks and Recreation

Mrs. Lemay noted the park rangers are both out for various reasons. She noted they are still working on placing the passive recreation areas under the Conservation Commission with the active areas under Parks and Recreation.

Update on Wakeman's Pond

A site visit was conducted by Roman and members of the Conservation District as well as members of the Conservation Commission. It was found that the seepage is coming from underneath the granite retaining wall. This is natural seepage but this is where the high phosphorous levels were recorded. Temperature samples and other samples were taken. Some of the run off goes into a town owned wetland. Some goes into the storm water system. All the documentation and testing will be submitted by a report to everyone. Mrs. Lemay noted she went to the Southwest Conservation meeting and the study findings and recommendations were discussed. Roman is also putting together an entire package of material from the Conservation District and other organizations for the residents of the housing on the hill to reduce fertilization and pesticides. This information will be sent to the Conservation Commission and then the town can reach out to the neighborhood. Mr. Smeriglio and Mr. Maurer are in agreement that they will coordinate with the Conservation Commission to distribute this material. These recommendations could be applied to other areas in town.

Update on Terms of Commissioners

No update.

Adjournment

There being no further business motion was made by Mr. Watson, seconded by Mr. Parsons, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Clerk

Theses minutes are considered a draft until approved at the next meeting of the Conservation Commission.