

City of Shelton, Conservation Commission
Minutes for the Special Meeting on Monday February 2, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.
Minutes should be considered a draft version until approved by CC at their next meeting.

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Call to Order

Present: Tom Harbinson, Chairman
Hank Lauriat, Commissioner
Jim Tate, Commissioner
Joe Welsh, Commissioner

Also Present: Teresa Gallagher, Conservation Agent
Terry Gallagher, Trails Committee
Richard Skudlarek, Trails Committee
Marianne Chaya, Clerk

A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Harbinson called the meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Lauriat MOVED to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2009 Special meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Welsh. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

C. Public Portion

None

D. Trails Committee Report

Trails Committee member Terry Gallagher reported on the following:

1. Planned Projects for 2009

Phase I is done except some trees that need to be flagged for removal. We will do that this month.

We are getting heavy usage, even with the snow coverage on the trails. There seem to be a lot of dog people. Chairman Harbinson commented that he has seen cross country skiers as well as snowshoe hikers.

Phase II, Nells Rock from the power lines to Huntington Woods possibly service from the City (Parks & Rec) crews to shift the alignment.

While on that trail I noticed a herd of deer plus have spotted lots of coyote tracks.

Phase III-A & B – Vice-Chairman Dyer did get a bid from Jim Swift for work in the area of Huntington Woods. The purchase order is currently being held up by the administration.

We had two work parties already this year. The first one we focused on the ice damage on the Turkey Trot trail and portions of the Dominick Trail. On the second work session we concentrated on the area where CL&P had cut along the power lines along Route 108. We cut briars along the power line trails and we scouted out some connections to Independence Drive.

We are still waiting to hear on the transportation grant from the DEP (Recreational Trails Grant). It has been held up by the federal highway administration.

Trails Day – We are going run two work parties to work on the Paugusset Trail up to Little Fox Run. We are going to have a bridge-to-bridge hike. Upcoming work parties – we are going to flagging portions of the Paugusset Trail from Route 110 south towards Shelton Lakes. Then we will be working on Shelton Lakes north thru Wiacek and from Indian Well south toward Mayflower.

We will be putting a notice in the paper asking for more trail volunteers.

There is a wish list of items we would like to purchase.

Mr. Gallagher detailed some of the pending clean up items on the Rec Path.

The Trails Committee would like to have the Conservation Commission to formally add Jim Taradine and Pete Conway to the trails committee. They have both been great volunteers over the past year and a half.

Commissioner Lauriat MOVED to add Jim Taradine and Pete Conway to the Trails Committee. SECONDED by Commissioner Welsh. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.

E. Shelton Canal

1. Closure of public recreation area, letter to FERC submitted by Conservation

Agent Gallagher reported that we sent a letter to FERC (Kimberly Bose) but we technically don't have the opportunity to comment. We went through McCallum's request for a re-hearing and there were some items that we took issue with and responded to those.

There was a planning document put out by FERC in 1996 of recreation plans for hydroelectric plants. It was very enlightening to see what they would like to see for recreation areas.

Chairman Harbinson said he spoke with Sandy Nesteriak after we sent the letter and she collected the package of all the information, including our letter, contacted Rosa DeLauro's office and Jim Himes' local office to alert them that our package was coming to the Washington office.

There was discussion of whether the fence was still in place.

2. Filling of canal for site development – Army Corps wetlands permit temporarily withdrawn.

No change in status.

F. Open Space Plan of 2009

Plan online for public review at www.sheltonconservation.org

Chairman Harbinson reported that the P&Z meeting scheduled for last week was cancelled due to the weather. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10.

G. Review of P&Z Applications for Subdivisions and/or Developments

None

H. Conservation Agent Report

1. Eklund Native Species Garden

We received the grant money of \$2500 from the Iroquois company for the purchase of native species plants. A new website was created for the garden at www.sheltonconservation.org/eklund.

The deer fencing needs to be installed before the plants are purchased and planted.

Commissioner Lauriat asked where the money is deposited and wanted to insure that the funds will not be used for something else or be held up due to budget restraints. There was discussion of what needs to happen to insure that these funds will be available and also how to secure the funds

for the deer fence and installation. It was suggested that perhaps the installation of the deer fence and gates could be an Eagle Scout project.

3. Conservation website

Agent Gallagher updated the website and can be viewed at www.sheltonconservation.org.

The Commissioners complimented Agent Gallagher for her efforts on the website update and discussed a few minor changes.

I. Communications

Chairman Harbinson presented the following communications received:

- Quarterly report from Planning & Zoning (read and discussed)
- Iroquois letter with the grant money (\$2500)
- Forest & Parks Association thanking the Commission for continuing with the membership
- Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) letter thanking the Commission for continuing with the membership
- CACIWC newsletter
- Referral for a 2-lot subdivision – family split – 235 Soundview Ave.
- Memo from Agent Gallagher to Bill Mooney (H&B) thanking him for putting in the drop curb
- Letter from Agent Gallagher to Chief Hurliman regarding the activity at the canal and the issues involving FERC

J. Quality of Life – Executive Session

None

K. Adjournment

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

Commissioner Lauriat MOVED to adjourn. SECONDED by Commissioner Tate. MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Chaya
Clerk, Conservation Commission