

**\*REVISED\***

# OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING

## *Minutes*

*Craft Room 3, Community Center*

*Shelton, CT*

*Monday, August 23, 2004*

**Members Present:**

**Dave Zamba  
Tom Harbinson  
Regis Dognin  
Harriet Wilber**

**Members Absent:**

**Ed Conklin  
Celeste Beattie  
Ken Olin  
Neil Hayes  
Paul Gabor  
Ralph Rotondo**

Dave Zamba, Co-Chairman at 7:40 P.M, called the August 23, 2004 meeting of the Open Space Committee to order. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Review of Minutes**

Since two of the members present were not present at the last meeting so they decided to hold off on approving the minutes until the next meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Tom Harbinson reported that only April and May balance sheets were given to him by Finance and he would bring all the months up to date at the next meeting.

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Subdivisions**

There are no new subdivisions.

Tom Harbinson asked the question whether this committee should continue. We go month to month with very few people showing up or a quorum. We do not get representation from Planning & Zoning nor does anyone show up from the Board of Aldermen. Structurally we seem to overlap the commentary Conservation is already making on the subdivisions. Tom asked Harriet, what is the history of the Open Space Committee other than deferring information back to their respective Commissions? Harriet said that we are overseeing or recommending use of the Open Space Fund. When the City is looking to buy open space it should initiate from this Committee, in Harriet's opinion. Tom asked if Conservation could take over. Harriet said that initially they tried that but they wanted all the different Commissions to oversee the money. The Board of Aldermen made these rules and maybe this the time to bring it up again. Dave suggested writing a letter to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen and copy all the Commissions. Harriet said that it all started because they didn't want to give all the power to one group and we needed money for open space. Even though purchases are supposed to initiate from the Open Space Committee most times we are informed that purchases are taken from the account and we find out after-the-fact. Now the Aldermen have to accept the open space, so what are we doing? Perhaps we meet quarterly. Regis said that he feels the need to keep this committee to give him a feel for what is happening in Shelton relative to new development. He feels that helps him in reviewing applications at WPCA.

### **Executive Session**

**Tom Harbinson MOVED to go into Executive Session at 8:05 P.M. to discuss possible land purchases, SECONDED by Regis Dognin. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED. Tom Harbinson MOVED to return to regular session at 8:30 P.M., SECONDED by Regis Dognin. All were in favor, MOTION PASSED.**

### **Trails Report**

The timber bridge has been installed at Means Brook and was done by the time the St. Lawrence carnival started. There were some millings and concrete blocks installed for the approach to the bridge. There is still some work to be done, such as signage. Hopefully they will anchor the bridge because this area could flood. The press was notified and pictures were taken and published. There has been a problem with paintball enthusiasts using the open space area near Huntington Center. This is similar to the problem they had before near Dean Cawthra's place. It is not just kids that do this, there are adults holding the events, with rules for gaming. They asked the group that if they wanted to do it to come to them with by-laws and insurance coverage so that we could give them the authorization. They never did come forward and they just dissolved the group from that area. We don't know if it's the same group or not. We did have a work party last Saturday. We got an email from a scoutmaster in Monroe looking for a 4 1/2 hr. project for 12-18 year old boys in the scouting

group in the radius of 30 miles from Monroe. We think we can work something out. Harriet suggested letting Jim Pjura know what is needed so he could coordinate it. We had asked for use of some grant money to be able to store our gator in a shed behind EMS but we just found out that EMS already got a shed and is storing it. This is good but it was never communicated to us until we had our trail group show up for the work party.

### **Round Table**

Tom Harbinson reported that the Plan Update Advisory Committee has been meeting every Monday and will be having a public workshop on September 13 and will focus on Conservation. Posters have been posted in the public buildings. At this meeting they will break up into groups to discuss preservation of open space, agriculture and natural resources. Each group will have a scribe to take down what the group decided on and present it to everyone. At the end of the meeting they will create a vision based on the public's input. The workshops will always be on Monday's, at the New Intermediate School at 7PM. Harriet mentioned that the members of Conservation brought new thoughts to the last meeting in regards to the Open Space Plan. Tom said that he has the Open Space plan on disk, thanks to Regis, and have started to modify it and create a draft. Dave said that they had talked in the past about becoming more aggressive about going after the landowners before the developers do or while they are negotiating. Tom said that while he was looking at the quality of life section developed in 1993 it was interesting to see what is gone and what was saved. That was the seed that planted the comments about having more than one person to do the negotiating because it can become overwhelming. Regis reported that Constitution Park is near completion. There are 5 lampposts installed and they are on a timer. There is a 6' wide path and the plantings are in. The only remaining item are the 5 benches. We have memorialized 4 out of 5 benches and I am actively seeking contributions for the fifth bench. The memorial plaques are metal and will be placed on the back of the bench. Dedication day will be determined after the benches are in place. Veterans Day is perhaps the next possible date. Regis said that they are looking at contracts for maintenance. It was stated that it probably would end up with Parks & Rec. taking care of the park. It would not be a problem except there is a need for more staffing and equipment for Parks and Rec. to handle what they already have. Regis stated that there has been a less than desirable job of the maintenance at Riverwalk. Plants were pulled out instead of weeding. About 50% of the lighting fixtures are either not working because they are burned out or the fixtures are flopping around. Dave stated that there is a public hearing for the new Charter Revision Commission and all the boards and committees have been invited. Regis said that it was really difficult to know what changes were made. They published the changes but it was difficult to follow.

**Adjournment**

**Tom Harbinson MOVED to adjourn the meeting, SECONDED by Regis Dognin. All were in favor, MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:10 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Chaya  
Clerk, Open Space Committee  
One tape is on file in the City/Town Clerk's office