

**TOWN OF STRATFORD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Pursuant to the direction of Chairman Greg Dancho, the Conservation Commission of the Town of Stratford will conduct a **Regular Meeting on Tuesday February 10th, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 212** of the Birdseye Complex, Stratford CT, pursuant to notice duly given and posted.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes – January 13th, 2015
3. Open Space Committee Report
4. Conservation Administrator's Report
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Adjourn

Special Message: Any individual with a disability who needs special assistance to participate in the meeting should contact the ADA Coordinator, at 385-4020 or 385-4022 (TDD), five (5) days before the scheduled meeting, when possible.

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Conservation Commission Meeting

January 13, 2015

The Conservation Commission conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on January 13, 2015 in Room 111 of the Birdseye Complex, 468 Birdseye Street, Stratford, Connecticut.

Members Present: Chairman Dancho, J. DiMenno, R. Heiden, W. McCann,

Members Absent: K Rodia, M. Steward

Also Present: Conservation Administrator Brian Carey

Call to Order: Chairman Dancho called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. DiMenno made a motion to approve the minutes of November 10, 2014. The motion was seconded by W. McCann. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. McCann to correct a name change under new business to Far Mill River Park. Mr. Dimenno seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Space Committee Report: Mr. Carey reported that he had sent a letter to the Mayor, but received no response as of this date. There is a substantial amount of money there so we need to act on it.

Mr. McMann indicated hearing about eminent domain being named under a different definition in Stratford. Mr. Carey stated it's possibly directed toward the Patricia Drive subdivision. He believes the town is trying to find other methods to get around this variance, because the town had lost the appeal.

Conservation Administrators Report: Mr. Carey informed the commissioners of a kick off meeting for demolition. He said there are several projects being finalized. One in particular is the Contract Plating Facility. The contract was awarded to Standard Demolition Services. For complete demo down to the slab the cost will be \$598,000.00.

Also, out to bid is the silo project at Mercer, there were some problems, but he's hoping the bid will be back by the end of January.

Mr. Carey reported getting a coastal resilience grant from CDBG for \$100,000.00. Goal is to have 6 or 7 projects that would be permitted.

Also, in the works is to replace the pavilion at Roosevelt Forest and add a handicap ramp, redo all the fire pits, but still maintain the structure. Hoping to get people back there for camping.

Mr. Carey also mention there will be a public hearing January 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the Birdseye Complex, for the James Farm Road project. He emphasized the importance of a big turn out.

The Stratford Engine Armory Plant received a \$200,000.00 grant. Basically going to do testing on the building's materials. Working on a proposal, deadline is March 31st.

There are some issues happening at Hunter Haven wetlands. DEP coming in and sheet piling around the marsh. Neighbor is having periodic flooding, hoping to get this issue resolved.

Old Business: Mr. DiMenna brought up Pirhala Farms. He stated how teachers wanted plots for planting. He doesn't feel enough is being done with this project. Mr. Carey assured him that Mr. Garnet is working with individual teachers, and suggested he contact Mr. Garnet with any questions.

Mr. McCann made a motion that the commission authorize the Conservation Administrator to use conservation budget money in the amount of but not to exceed \$1,500.00 for use in project Greenway. Mr. DiMenna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Carey stated that April 24th was the greenway project. Further discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. DiMenna noted that in the past year the Board of Education was given \$1,000.00 for planting. Being it was never used, he suggested using it for little projects around the elementary schools. The commission agreed that we need to follow up on that money that was allocated to the board.

Mr. Dancho brought up the plastic bag ban that Mrs. Rodia was pushing at past meetings. Now that the legislation is proposing this to become state wide, this might be something to reconsider.

Mr. McCann made a motion that the Stratford Conservation Commission supports the recent proposal of the State of CT. legislation in regarding the usage of plastic bags. The Stratford Conservation Commission has always supported bringing your own bags when shopping. The motion was seconded by Mr. DiMenno. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Heiden wanted an update on the Rooney property-still pending in court.

New Business: Mr. DiMenno reiterated that Ms. Rodia had mentioned that Dave Wright was interested in doing another bird festival. Mr. Dancho reported that Mr. Wright wanted to keep it small and simple. There will be further discussion on this at the next meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further items to discuss. Mr. McCann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. DiMenno. Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Laurell Barr

Recording Secretary