

Conservation Commission Meeting

January 14, 2014

The Conservation Commission conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on January 14, 2014 in Room 111 of the Birdseye Complex, 468 Birdseye Street, Stratford, Connecticut.

Members Present: K. Rodia, J. DiMenno, W. McCann, R. Heiden

Members Absent: M. Stewart, Chairman Dancho

Also Present: B. Carey

Call to Order: In the absence of Chairman Dancho, Mr. DiMenno called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Rodia made a motion to approve the minutes of October 8, 2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heiden. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Space Committee Report: Mr. Carey reported no grants or properties to discuss at this time. Mr. McCann suggested Mr. Carey have a face to face meeting with property owners instead of letter communication.

Mr. DiMenno informed the Commission he attended the meeting of the Board of Education Planning Committee. He discussed the renovation of Stratford High School and noted the architect wanted to have a public meeting so the members of the public could have some input on the proposed renovations. Purchasing new property for the school was also discussed at this meeting. He will email members of the Commission when he knows the date of the public meeting.

Conservation Administrators Report – Mr. Carey noted he had received a Grant in December from the Greater Regional Planning Agency for \$25K for urban forestry studies.

Contract Plating was foreclosed on in March, working on getting the building demolished. As of this time, there are no plans for the site.

A Grant for Mercer Coal Towers was submitted to the EPA.

Ms. Rodia suggested Raybestos Field be capped and turned over to the Town. Mr. Carey noted that Save Stratford and the EPA are far apart as to either the remediation or capping of the field.

The Commission discussed the artificial reef project which is going forward and the possibility of a similar project at the end of Long Beach West. Mr. Carey will try to get Mark Beekey to present to the Commission.

Commission discussed Roosevelt Forest and the cutting of trees at the forest. Mr. Carey noted the powers to be do not want to deal with this project and there is no financial incentive for patch cutting. Mr. DiMenno suggested having someone from Yale School of Forestry inform the public about the long-term benefits of this project.

Old Business:

Mr. Heiden updated the Commission on the Grove Street project. Noted the Board of Zoning Appeals heard the application in December and tabled the application. On January 2, the Board rejected the project unanimously.

Commissioners discussed the quarry on Nutmeg Lane. Mr. Carey noted rock crushing is finished and air testing has been completed.

Mr. McCann noted the Conservation Commission has been given responsibility for a number of tasks within the "Plan of Conservation and Development". He also expressed the need for new members and an adequate supply of alternates. Ideally a Commission member should sit on the Roosevelt Forest and Inland Wetland Commissions. Mr. Carey may have a person who will come to the February meeting.

New Business:

Ms. Rodia recommended submitting a budget to the Town for monies for educational programs. Possibly a Festival Weekend educating the public in composting, etc. Money is needed for advertising. Recommended budget:

Bag Project	\$1,500.00
Education for Adults	1,000.00
Education for Children	1,000.00
Awards/Recognition Program	500.00
Publicity – brochures, etc.	1,000.00
Educational materials for Pirhala Farms	
Education ie. Greenhouse supplies,	
Organic compost, seedlings	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	\$6,000.00

A motion was made by Mr. McCann to submit the above budget to the Town. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rodia. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. DiMenno has contacted the Recreation Department’s Advisor for the 4H Club in reference to the club working at Pirhala Farm. Noted the club is not active during the summer months. A meeting of the 4H Club will be held on Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Birdseye Complex. Ms. Rodia suggested contacting the Connecticut Grange for seeds. Also noted the importance of not getting genetically modified seeds.

There being no further items to discuss, Ms. Rodia made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCann. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail De Cilio

