

Conservation Commission Meeting

May 13, 2014

The Conservation Commission conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on May 13, 2014 in Room 111 of the Birdseye Complex, 468 Birdseye Street, Stratford, Connecticut.

Members Present: K. Rodia, J. DiMenno, W. McCann, Chairman Dancho

Members Absent: R. Heiden, M. Stewart

Also Present: B. Carey, J. Garnett

Call to Order: Chairman Dancho called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. McCann made a motion to approve the minutes of April 8, 2014. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rodia. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Space Committee Report: Commissioners agreed on meeting next month, same day as Conservation Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners discussed Stupak and Chanda properties. They were in agreement that overtures in the form of letters should be sent to owners. **Ms. Rodia made a motion to send letters to owners of Stupak and Chanda properties. The motion was seconded by Mr. DiMenno. The motion carried unanimously.**

Conservation Administrators Report: Mr. Carey noted discussion and motion to send letter to legislature took place at the recent CTAC meeting in reference to the utility trim program. Mr. Carey is in the process of establishing a tree ordinance which is in line with Greenwich. Noted the current regulations only deal with nuisance trees. Mr. Carey is in the process of working on an ordinance and arborist manual for the town. United Illuminating is not on schedule to start work in Stratford for two (2) years. Commissioners discussed problems with sidewalks in Stratford and planting easements.

Working on brownfields. Mercer coal towers has been removed – funding is in place – should be going to bid by July 1st. Town has applied for a grant for Contract Plating – Going out to bid shortly.

Mr. Carey noted that Fish & Wildlife has a concern with the kite boarders at Long Beach. Commissioners discussed kite boarders and possible permits to be issued for certain sections of the beach.

- A. Results of Project Greensweep** – Mr. Carey noted that even with the rain in the morning there was a pretty good turnout. Gathered twenty-two (22) tons of debris. Possibly combine River Cleanup and Project Greensweep next year.

Old Business:

Mr. Carey introduced Jason Garnett, agent for Soundkeeper, who is working with Terry Backer. Mr. Garnett noted they are operating on a shoestring. Are presently planting fruit trees and have received a state grant for additional trees. The irrigation system has been buried and are looking to install deer fencing. A rain garden has been built and he would also like to landscape the back area behind the building. Mr. Garnett would also like to do a farm stand – Mr. Carey will check on the permitting process.

Noted the “Memo of Understanding” which was signed five (5) years ago has expired. Commissioners discussed sending a memo to the Mayor to renew the memo. Mr. DiMenno discussed the history of the farm in reference to the “Memo of Understanding”. Mr. Garnett will discuss the “Memo of Understanding” with Mr. Backer.

Ms. Rodia reiterated the concept of working with the Pumpkin Festival to grow pumpkins at the farm. Councilwoman Philips thinks it would be a good idea for Conservation to have a booth at the Festival. Tentative date is October 16th. Commissioners agreed to have a booth at the Pumpkin Festival.

Mr. DiMenno noted the Board of Education’s Math Supervisor thought having elementary age children visit the farm would be a good experience. The Recreation Department was interested in obtaining a plot in conjunction with their 4H Club to grow food for the food pantry – unfortunately the 4H Club only is

active during the school year. He has contacted UCONN on short season plantings.

Commissioners discussed obtaining foreclosed property adjacent to the farm.

New Business:

Discussed recruiting new members. Joe Gresco would like to be on the Commission.

Budget has passed – Mr. Carey believes Conservation Commission received some funding.

There being no further items to discuss, Mr. DiMenno made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rodia. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail De Cilio