

Conservation Commission Meeting

February 10, 2015

The Conservation Commission conducted a regularly scheduled meeting on February 10, 2015 in Room 111 of the Birdseye Complex, 468 Birdseye Street, Stratford, Connecticut.

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

Members Absent: M. Stewart, R. Heiden

Also absent: Conservation Administrator Brian Carey

Call to Order: Chairman Dancho called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. McCann made a motion to approve the minutes of January 13, 2015 with the following corrections: spelling of Mr. DiMenno, spelling of Mr. McCann, and under Old Business 3rd paragraph change Greenway to Green Sweep. The motion was seconded by Mr. DiMenno. The motion carried 3-1 with Ms. Rodia abstaining.

Open Space Committee Report: Ms. Rodia mention there is a lot going on in the town that we should be concerned about. The area behind the Sewage Treatment Plant is probably not going to happen because of the potential sale of the plant. Also, at Shakespeare, they want to level the building on park property, which is open space and possibly put a hotel up in its place.

Mr. Dancho questioned whether the area was considered open space. Mr. McCann commented that there are several different categories of open space-discussion ensued.

Ms. Rodia also raised the issues of Judith Terrace and the potential of Patricia Drive affordable housing projects. She is concerned things are happening and the commission is not being sent any information.

McCann feels it would be easier if the commission had hard copies.

Mr. Dancho noted he would contact Brian Carey about possibly being able to download the latest conservation commission plan. He agreed it would be easier to determine what is pertinent.

Conservation Administrators Report: Mr. Dancho reported there is no Conservation Administrators Report.

Mr. McCann did give an update on the James Farm Road proposal. He mentioned there were two public hearing meetings already. A number of technicalities are involved. There will be another public hearing meeting on February 19th, in the town hall, at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Dancho discussed having a face book page would be beneficial, especially for this purpose and other concerned issues that are happening in town. It is the best way for people to get information. Will be looking into this further.

Old Business: Mr. Dancho discussed the plastic bags; he said he talked with Rep. Hennessey. Mr. Hennessey said the state is moving forward with the ban. Maybe now the town will get on board too.

Ms. Rodia said she will contact David Wright about the bird/pumpkin festival. Need to come up with some ideas for incorporating birds into the festival. Mr. Dancho mentioned bringing in zoo animals for the festival. Commissioners will discuss more at the next meeting.

New Business: Mr. DiMenno mentioned he finally got in touch with Jason Garnett. He said the PTA is interested in bringing students to the farm. The superintendent approved it, but it would only be feasible for elementary students.

Mr. DiMenno also stated that more plots were needed to plant. Possibly having High School students come till the soil for more plots.

Mr. DiMenno said that Mr. Griest is working with teachers to incorporate an informational/educational field trip for students to learn about agriculture. Mr. DiMenno also mentioned Jason wants help; maybe the Conservation Commission will be willing to support him in any educational activities.

Mr. DiMenno would like to get agricultural related speakers or demonstrators to come to Pirhala Farm. NOFA was suggested by Mr. Dancho.

Ms. Rodia suggested possibly getting extension through the state. She also presented to the commission a Ct. Grange booklet. It offers a lot of good environmental health and nutritional information. She will distribute them to all elementary and some pre-schools.

Adjournment: There being no further items to discuss. Mr. McCann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rodia. Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Laurell Barr

Recording Secretary

