

## **Conservation Commission Meeting**

**July 14, 2015**

The Conservation Commission conducted a regularly, scheduled meeting on July 14, 2015 in Room 111 of the Birdseye Complex, 468 Birdseye Street, Stratford, Connecticut.

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

**Also Present:** Mrs. Batoh, Conservation Administrator

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. DiMenno made a motion to approve the minutes of May 12, 2015. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rodia. The motion carried unanimously.

**Coastal Resilience:** Mrs. Batoh reported on the coastal resilience meeting she had attended. A consultant firm, GZA, is working on a coastal resilience project in Stratford. They're about 40% into the design. They presented background into how they do their modeling and determining what the critical areas in town are that need to be protected emphasizing on where our critical infrastructures are located. Mr. McCann mentioned that this commission should be part of the planning. Mrs. Batoh will look into possibly getting the consultants to come to a meeting.

The question of cost was brought up by Mr. DiMenno. Mrs. Batoh stated that a grant was funded for the planning, but not for the restructure of any coastal work. Federal grants could possibly be attained. She stressed the importance of this project, especially in the future. Discussion continued. There should be more information at the next two coastal resilience meetings that are scheduled.

**Conservation Administrators Report:** Mrs. Batoh discussed a 319 grant. The grant is easy to receive and projects are achievable. Many areas around town could benefit from this grant, but maintenance of these areas is a concern. We would have to address this further.

Mrs. Batoh said a plan was presented for a 76 affordable housing complex at 170 Oranoque Lane. She stated it's an unacceptable application until completed. Also proposed was a single site plan located at 795 James Farm Rd. Wetlands will be affected by this project. A wetland application must be submitted.

**Old Business:** The commission is still in need of members. A question arose about the ordinance of a council member sitting in on meetings. Going to look into this to determine what the town code is. This matter needs further discussion. Also, mentioned other committees are having trouble meeting a quorum. We really should look into combining with other committees that deal with basically the same issues. Further inquiry needed.

**Mr. McCann discussed the resubmitted application of James Farm Rd. project. It is now a smaller development, with the same problems. Also, the Ward Estates were approved with conditions, but just a draft approval for now.**

**Mr. Dancho said he's been writing on the facebook page. Members need to bring ideas forward. Ms. Rodia suggested an Educational page. Dancho said we should keep it simple and maybe try to boost the page.**

**Mr. Dancho discussed a situation with Encon Solar Company, they're sending letters to town residents. The Conservation Commission never gave approval, and will look into getting some clarification on this.**

**The Commission discussed the Pumpkin Festival scheduled for the middle of October. Mr. Dancho said his staff talked with Dave Wright about having the birds. He also said he will donate the zoo's display with no cost to conservation. Ms. Rodia mentioned she would like to expand into the schools, it would be nice because they hold plant fairs. They will look into donations. The commission will continue discussion at the next meeting.**

**New Business: Mrs. Batoh announced that the hazard waste pickup is going to be held on October 3rd.**

**Ms. Rodia sadly announce the passing of Todd Lovell, he loaned us birds for the display. She spoke with Ms. Phillips and she gave us the ok on having one house for a decoy museum at Booth Memorial Park, but we have to gradually phase it in because of security reasons.**

**Adjournment: There being no further items to discuss. Ms. Rodia made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dimenno. Adjourned at 9: 01 p.m.**

**Respectively Submitted,**

**Laurell Barr**

