

## Conservation Commission Meeting

February 9, 2016

The Conservation Commission conducted a scheduled meeting on February 9, 2016 in Room 213 of Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, Connecticut.

Members Present: Chairman Dancho, J. DiMenno, W. McCann, K. Rodia, Town Council Representative, Joe Gresko

Members Absent: R. Heiden

Also Present: Conservation Administrator, Mrs. Batoh, J.E. Martin

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

**Approval of Minutes:** MRS. RODIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2016. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCANN. THE MOTION CARRIED 3 TO 2, WITH CHAIRMAN DANCHO AND COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE GRESKO ABSTAINING.

### **Conservation Administrator's Report:**

a. **795 James Farm Road:** Mrs. Batoh was displeased to announce the 795 James Farm Road application was ruled in favor of the applicant. It will go to Planning and Zoning, and there will be a scheduled Public Hearing. The hearing will provide an opportunity to voice environmental concerns and to guide Planning and Zoning Commissioners in rendering their decision on this project. Mrs. Batoh will keep the Commission informed.

b. **Marcia Stewart Resolution:** Chairman Dancho requested that the Town Council's Agenda, proclaiming Marcia Stewart's resolution be put into the minutes: Mr. McCann read the Town Council's Agenda; Under Ceremonial Presentation and Awards 2.1 requesting resolution to name roadway extending from Oak Bluff Boulevard to Long Beach parking lot. "Marcia Stewart Way." Sponsored by the Honorable members of the Town Council.

For decades, Ms. Stewart has defended Great Meadows Marsh from threats of despoliation via newspaper editorials, impassioned speeches delivered during Public Forums, and during her tenure as President of Protect Your Environment.

STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA February 8, 2016 Further, she served as coordinator of student marsh tours, whereby fourth graders from across town were introduced to the fragile marsh ecosystem. The dedication of Ms. Stewart to the education of these students was truly outstanding. Ms. Stewart's instruction has produced a generation of Stratford residents that are more knowledgeable in regards to environmental issues, and therefore, more willing to preserve the environment.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** The Stratford Conservation Commission requests that the roadway extending from Oak Bluff Boulevard to the Long Beach parking lot be named "Marcia Stewart Way." Ms. Stewart gave selflessly of her time in this

environmentally sensitive area of town and the Commission would like residents to be reminded of her efforts with each excursion to Great Meadows Marsh.

Mr. McCann asked if Public Works can construct two street signs, so one could be given to Ms. Stewart. Mrs. Batoh felt there shouldn't be a problem. Also, Mr. McCann inquired about getting a proclamation award to put on display, in honor of Ms. Stewart. Commissioners concurred with this proposal.

Chairman Dancho proposed a motion be made to send a thank you letter to the Town Council.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. MCCANN FOR THE COMMISSION TO SEND A LETTER OF APPRECIATION TO THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MRS. RODIA. THE MOTION PASSED 4 IN FAVOR AND 1 ABSTAINING.

Mrs. Batoh will draft a thank you letter and then email to the Commissioners for approval.

c. Greenway Project: Will be Saturday, May 7th at 9:00 a.m. Meeting place is at Birdseye Dock—and it will coincide with River Cleanup.

d. ECOS: Mrs. Batoh met with the 4 H-Club at Birdseye School and with Strobe at Sterling House. She said there's about 12-14 interested students. Project Greensweep will be their first initial launch. Then, she will schedule students to go on park cleanups, etc. She shared with the Commission a brochure that she hands out to the students and she also includes a power point presentation. Chairman Dancho invited Mrs. Batoh to Beardsley Zoo to meet the Conservation Corp. students, there are over 60 kids involved and most likely some are Stratford residents. We can ask them to help with Project Greensweep too. Mrs. Batoh is eager to keep the students interested and to acquire more participants. Several members gave suggestions on keeping the students engaged. Discussion ensued.

Mr. McCann questioned whether the town is having a household waste collection this year. Mrs. Batoh believes it's going to be every other year. Some of the Commissioners were disappointed. Mr. McCann mentioned a Common Cost Sharing Plan with other towns. It could be something to inquire about. Mrs. Rodia added she believes Home Depot has a household battery disposal near their courtesy desk, but she will confirm this. Chairman Dancho said these types of things could be something to put on the Conservation Corner page.

#### Old Business:

a. 450 James Farm Road: Applicant appeal of denial—Appeal deadline date is questionable, looking into this—in the meantime Mrs. Batoh has to gather all public hearing records and write-up a transcript for attorneys. It could be months before called upon to proceed. Mr. McCann feels they're going to have a hard argument. Mrs. Batoh agreed. She will keep Commissioners posted.

**New Business:**

a. **Open Space:** Mrs. Batoh received a correspondence from Paul Sobol of Green and Gross Law Firm, regarding open space property, we can purchase: Approximately 6.5 acres located at the end of Beaver Dam Road, she believes it's the Rancaglian property. She hasn't looked at the lot yet, and doesn't know how contiguous it is. The amount wasn't included. Mrs. Rodia noted there are grants and monies allotted for Open Space; need to check the account. Council Representative Gresko stated he is a designee on Open Space Watershed (DEEP); he can possibly be of some help. Mrs. Batoh said she will do more research on the property. Once she takes a look at the lots and sees how it fits in with Roosevelt Forest she will email the Commissioners her opinion, and then we can move forward. She, also, mentioned it wasn't on the radar of our open space list, and expressed concern about purchasing it before someone else does.

Mr. DiMenno mentioned a visual map of the town's streets would be something to look into. It would help decipher certain areas that are being discussed. Commissioners agreed.

b. **Conservation articles for Stratford Star:** Mrs. Batoh presented to the Commissioners a chart, which J.E. Martin put together for the Conservation articles. J. E. Martin discussed brainstorming ideas. She said Commissioners can write the articles, or she would be glad to draft any written contents the Commissioners provide. The Commissioners discussed different ideas, subjects, size of the article, etc. Discussion continued. Chairman Dancho stressed the importance of consistency. J.E. Martin will email the chart to the Commissioners.

Mrs. Batoh added to New Business; she attended the Great Meadows Marsh/Steward's Program, it's run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. About 20 town attendees were there. She said it was a nice experience and she is now an official steward volunteer. She will let the Commission know when the next scheduled one will be held.

Council Representative Gresko also added to New Business; he wanted some input from the Commissioners about changing the Burma Road name in honor of Terry Backer (Terry Backer Way), he had received some negative feedback. Chairman Dancho took a straw poll, and all the Commissioners were in favor.

**Adjournment:** There being no further items to discuss. **MRS. RODIA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCANN. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:45 P.M.**

**Respectively Submitted,**

**Laurell Barr**

