

## Conservation Commission Meeting

March 7, 2016

The Conservation Commission conducted a scheduled meeting on March 7, 2016 in The Employee Lounge of Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, Connecticut.

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

**Members Absent:** Council Representative, Joe Gresko, R. Heiden

**Also Present:** Conservation Administrator, Mrs. Batoh, J.E. Martin, **Guests:** Joe Koripsky, Walt Rimkunas

**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 FEBRUARY 9, 2016. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. DIMENNO. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

. **a. 795 James Farm Road:** Mrs. Batoh announced that the 795 James Farm Road development is going to a zoning hearing on March 29, 2016. She is hoping members can attend and will devise a written statement providing details on why this project would have an impact on the Inland/Wetland system. Mrs. Batoh will draft something up, and send it to the Commissioners.

**b. Marcia Stewart Resolution:** Chairman Dancho expressed his appreciation on Marcia Stewart's resolution; he thanked the members and other participants for doing an outstanding job. Chairman Dancho conveyed how grateful Ms. Stewart seemed when she was presented with the proclamation. Members concurred.

**c. ECOS:** Not much development. Mrs. Batoh said some Strobe volunteers are interested, also, the Scouts are volunteering for Project Greensweep, therefore she is hoping to get them involved with ECOS as well. Chairman Dancho mentioned he handed out her brochure to the CDC kids, and perhaps get them involved too.

**Mrs. Batoh added to the Administrator's Report:** She attended a Coastal Resiliency tour. She went to several sites, (Madison, Guilford, Branford, and New Haven.) There are different plans set for Coastal Resiliency projects throughout these towns. She passed out to the members some information she had received. Discussion ensued.

## **Old Business:**

a. **Conservation Corner Kickoff and Scheduling of Article:** Mrs. Batoh handed out an introductory article and a format of newspaper topics depicting general subjects for each scheduled week. Included were articles members had submitted. Chairman Dancho suggested any article placed in the paper, should also go to our Facebook page. Mrs. Rodia asked whether we could use some of the money in our account to boost the Facebook page. She also said it would be nice if we could link it to different elementary schools, so parents could see it, and also targeting The Stratford Ladies Club would be a benefit.

Mr. DiMenno introduced a guest, Mr. Koripsky, who is looking for Marsh Guide volunteers, Mr. Koripsky shared a little about his ecosystem presentation he shares with the fourth graders in town, he expressed the interest the students show. Chairman Dancho suggested Mr. Koripsky write something up for the Conservation Corner article and we will put it in the paper.

A concerned public resident, Walt Rimkunas shared with the Committee a proposal by the Waterfront Harbor Commission for three boardwalks to be built on Long Beach. He handed out an illustration and described in detail the three areas that would be targeted by this project. He said the approximate cost would be 2.8 million. Chairman Dancho asked if there is any funding for this project, Mr. Rimkunas did not know of any funding being used. Mrs. Batoh mentioned she received an email thread about this and that DEEP is strongly against it. Mr. Rimkunas said the way it was put up in book form and presented to the Mayor by the group, everyone seemed in favor of it. The members discussed their concerns on the effect this project would have on the environment. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Batoh said she will reach out to Waterfront Harbor Commission to see what is going on.

## **New Business:**

a. **Open Space:** Mrs. Batoh updated the Commissioners on the Rancaglione/Joro property. She said she talked with Joe Gresko and he said the Open Space application is closed for now, but she feels the owners are not pressed for time. She said they're getting a yellow book appraisal, from there we will know more about the cost. She stated Open Space still has funding in the account, so we might be able to purchase it outright. She will keep the Commissioners informed; however we still have to get the Council's approval.

**Mr. McCann mentioned that Joe Koripsky has been working as a marsh volunteer for years. Mr. Koripsky has put together a very nice slide show. Mr. McCann stated he would like to make a proposal for the Commission to sponsor a community seminar/event. Mr. Koripsky discussed several things he shows in his presentation, which he entitled, "A Look at Stratford as a Coastal Ecosystem." Mr. McCann suggested having the event at the Baldwin Center or Library. Chairman Dancho said the Commission will make the overtures to the organizations and then move forward.**

**MR. DIMENNO MADE A MOTION THAT THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION WILL FUND AND MAKE THE CONTACT FOR MR. KORIPSKY TO SET UP A COMMUNITY EVENT WITH THE BALDWIN CENTER OR LIBRARY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MRS. RODIA. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Membership was discussed; Mrs. Batoh went over procedures with the prospective members. She mentioned the must do list for the Town Council, and the Commission appointments and reappointments to be put on the Agenda, the meeting is March 14, 2016 and she will confirm this with the CAO.**

**Next Conservation Commission Meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2016.**

**Adjournment: There being no further items to discuss. MRS. RODIA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. DIMENNO. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:54 P.M.**

**Respectively Submitted,**

**Laurell Barr**

