

Conservation Commission Meeting

April 12, 2016

The Conservation Commission conducted a scheduled meeting on April 12, 2016 in Room 213 of Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, Connecticut.

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

Members Absent: Chairman Dancho, Council Representative, Joe Gresko, Conservation Administrator, Mrs. Batoh

Also Present: J.E. Martin, Joe Koripsky, Angela Capinera

Call to Order: Mr. DiMenno called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: MRS. RODIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2016. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCANN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Conservation Administrator's Report:

a. **795 James Farm Road:** P&Z was pushed back from March 29 to April 26. It will not be until the May hearing that Conservation would have the opportunity to present their concerns regarding the project. Jay Habansky, P&Z Administrator, has given the members' comment documents to the P&Z Commissioners.

b. **Project Greensweep:** kickoff is at 8:00 a.m. on May 7th at Birdseye Dock. Several Conservation members are planning to attend.

c. **America the Beautiful grant:** \$3,000 awarded to the Town of Stratford for "Greening More from Forest to Shore" (Municipal Tree Plantings) a grant was obtained for this. The grant requires a Town match, the town will put in \$3,000 of funding toward tree planting (which is set as a line item for the tree planting budget) and receives \$3,000 from the grantor. More details will be provided as the grant project moves forward.

Members discussed the ordinance on the placement of trees. Members would like Tree Regulation to be put on next month's agenda. Discussion ensued.

d. **Commissioner Appointments and Term Renewals:** Requested that Conservation Commission appointments and Term Renewals be added as an agenda item to the Town Council meeting. Hoping there is a follow through from Council. Will confirm this with Carol Cabral.

Old Business:

a. **Conservation Corner:** J. E. Martin discussed upcoming articles that are going to be placed in the paper. Also, she will place something about Greensweep as we get closer to the event.

b. **Possible Open Space Acquisition:** The Rancaglion property was appraised at \$89,000. Now we can apply for state open space acquisition grants, possibly in December. An application will be submitted, and the grants are usually matching grants where the Town pays 40-60% of the purchase price, and the State pays the remainder. Members will be kept informed.

New Business:

a. Mr. Koripsky brought up a concern he has at Birdseye Dock, the trash bins there don't have lids and the garbage ends up on the ground and eventually into the river. Members mentioned other areas with the same problem.

MR. MCCANN MADE A MOTION THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE DEVISE A LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS DISCLOSING SEVERAL LOCATIONS WITH TRASH PROBLEMS (BIRDSEYE DOCK, BONDS DOCK, SEAWALL, PARADISE GREEN, SHAKESPEARE, AND LONG BEACH.) AND WHAT CAN BE DONE TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. HIEDEN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. The Commission voted to have Mr. Koripsky present his Ecosystem slide show, at 7:00 p.m. before the regular scheduled meeting in May and be placed on next months' agenda.

c. The members discussed developing an educational program for teachers and students about the importance of our marsh/environment. Discussion ensued. The members would like this placed on Mays' Agenda.

d. The members discussed how the Commission can carry out its duties outlined in the Conservation guidelines, and would like it added to next months' agenda.

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 8:37 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,

Laurell Barr

