

Conservation Commission Meeting

June 14, 2016

The Conservation Commission conducted a scheduled meeting on June 14, 2016 in Room 213 of Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, Connecticut.

Members Present: J. DiMenno, W. McCann, K. Rodia, , Joe Koripsky, Angela Capinera, Mr. Heiden

Also Present: Conservation Administrator Ms. Batoh, Guests spokespersons; Dr. Mattei (Sacred Heart University), and Daphne Dixon (Live Green Connecticut), Guests; Mr. and Mrs. W. Rimkunas, Jennifer Budai, and Elizabeth Saint.

Members Absent: Chairman Dancho, E. Martin, Council Representative, Joe Gresko

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

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Rodia made a motion to approve the minutes of May 10, 2016, with the rectification under New Business, item d., to remove Plover Nesting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Capinera. The motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Administrator's Report:

a. **795 James Farm Road:** Discussed the amended proposal and the serious consequences of this development if sanctioned to go forward. The members expressed their concerns. Members can view the entire record in the Planning and Zoning office. She hopes to get a digital file of the revised plans to share with the members. Discussion ensued. Zoning hearing application will continue on June 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

b. **America the Beautiful grant:** Not much to update, waiting on sign off and approval. Ms. Batoh asked the members to think about locations where we can plant the trees, she mentioned a few sites (Main Street, mid-section of town, Second Hill Lane/educational component). Ordinance was brought up, research it out. Discuss at next month's meeting.

Old Business:

a. **Conservation Corner:** No report

b. **Lids for Trash Bins:** Ms. Batoh said she will contact Moe from Public Works.

c. **Education Program for Marsh/Environment (Teacher Workshops):** Discussed different course contents pertaining to the ecosystem. Need to establish what grades/look into the curriculum/contact the Board of Education/speak with school's PTA. Could consider an afterschool enrichment club. Also, members discussed possibly integrating it into the Parks and Rec. Summer programs, would need to contact Pat Patusky. Discussion ensued. Confer further at next month's meeting.

d. **Review of Conservation Commission Duties:** Ms. Batoh read the official power of duties from the town. Look into what the state's obligations are. Ms. Batoh said she has the policy if any member wants to review them.

e. **Reef Ball Project:** Dr. Mattei from Sacred Heart University discussed the proposed expansion of the artificial reef at Stratford Point. She distributed a map, sighting the existing artificial reef and where the proposed expanded reef will be located. She mentioned the existing one was there for 2 years and surprisingly within 18 months they've seen results. If approved, the project should begin in mid September and completed by the end of the month, members questioned the scheduled dredging of the sound and whether this would be an obstruction.

Dr. Mattei added there is a tour coming up on June 28th at 11:00 a.m., and members are welcome to come. She said another time can be arranged if this is not convenient. Ms. Batoh stated she has a copy of the permission permit in her office if any member would like to view it.

f. **Dog Park Locations:** The Commissioners felt the old land fill area (Short Beach) was best suited to fit the needs of the dogs and their owners.

New Business:

a. **Live Green Connecticut! Solar Campaign:** Special Guest, Cofounder and President, Ms. Dixon discussed a solar initiative give back campaign. She mentioned working with Habitat for Humanity and that Encon provided them with a solar installation for a home that is being built in Stratford. Subsequently, any solar installation purchased after that through November 11th, Encon will contribute a donation to the Conservation Committee, and the amount will depend on the quantity of solar purchased. Members will cogitate further on this. She will email Ms. Batoh information about the upcoming events.

Mr. Karipsky announced the fourth grade Marsh Field trips were a success. Ms. Batoh and the Commissioners thanked all the volunteers for this accomplishment.

Adjournment: There being no further items to discuss. **MR. HEIDEN MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. KORIPSKY. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:12 P.M.**

Respectively Submitted,

Laurell Barr