

Conservation Commission Meeting

July 12, 2016

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

Members Present: Chairman Dancho, J. DiMenno, W. McCann, K. Rodia, , J. Koripsky, A. Capinera

Also Present: Conservation Administrator Ms. Batoh, Guests; Jennifer Budai

Members Absent: Mr. Heiden, E. Martin, Council Representative, Joe Gresko

Call to Order: Chairman Dancho called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Rodia made a motion to approve the minutes of June 14, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCann. The motion carried unanimously.

Conservation Administrator's Report:

a. 795 James Farm Road: Public Hearing is ongoing. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Jay Habansky is sending it back to Inland/Wetlands. Ms. Batoh said she is not sure what to expect at this point. The next Public Hearing is at the end of this month. Ms. Batoh will update Commissioners as more information arises.

b. America the Beautiful grant: Ms. Batoh said she is still waiting to hear back from Chris Donnelly (DEEP), she will keep members informed.

Ms. Batoh discussed the members' and the public's concerns on the massacre of trees throughout our town. She talked with Kyle Kleza from the U.I. She discussed with him the reasoning and the procedure of the tree removals. He stated if the property owners don't pose any objection to the project, it would go on a spreadsheet to the town, stating the owner's name and whether they denied it or not, then the town would either agree or disagree with the removal, however she has now inherited that job. U.I. defended the reasoning on behalf of the main power lines that would affect many homes if the trees would happen to come down during a storm. It's considered a 3 phase project. Members were not happy with this explanation, and they all seemed to accede that homeowners probably weren't advised properly and questioned the regulations on this process. Various concerns were disclosed. Discussion ensued. Ms. Batoh will keep the Commission apprised on the situation.

Ms. Capinera made a motion on behalf of the Conservation Committee, to write a letter expressing their extreme displeasure relating to various factors: Focus on the health and environment of our town disrupted by the tree removals, lack of information to the public, lack of cleanup, and the procedure of the homeowners' objection on the tree removal. The motion was seconded by Mr. McCann. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Batoh mentioned there's a developer who wants to build a Hotel in Shelton. It's near the Shelton Animal Hospital, next to a complex with several businesses, right after Avalon. Since this complex was built, there has been some sediment developing. The Beaver Dam Commission expressed their concern with this proposal. Ms. Batoh said she will review the plans.

Old Business:

a. **Educational Program for Marsh/Environment: Teacher Workshops.** Ms. Batoh talked with Harold Griest and he is fully on board with this program. Mr. Koripsky presented the members with the State's Core Standards, Ms. Batoh will be meeting with Mr. Griest in August, and would like Mr. Koripsky to join them.

b. **Reef Ball Project:** No updates. Ms. Batoh will talk with Dr. Mattei about some grants to continue growing the reef ball project. She will keep members posted.

Mr. Karipsky announced, since the letter was sent to the Public Works Dept., there have been lids placed on the trash bins in some areas. He was pleased to see this outcome. Hopefully at the other cited areas it will be forthcoming.

New Business:

a. **Marsh Scavenger Hunt: Potential Outreach;** Ms. Batoh discussed a marsh scavenger hunt she would like to run, she handed out to the members an instructional data sheet. This game would be available for the children up through high school to partake. She stated it could be an activity to be placed in the Conservation Corner. It's a great way to educate our children/community. Discussion ensued.

b. **Blues on the Beach: Potential Outreach;** Ms. Batoh suggested this would be a good outreach event, it is an all day function. Possibly having some hands on "critter" activities for the kids. Chairman Dancho mentioned an outreach program from Sherwood Island that provides a touch tank. It's educational and also supports the state park.

Mr. DiMenna mentioned the amended laws that seem to be put into practice when a developer wants to build affordable housing units in areas that are not environmentally suitable. He suggested contacting our state representatives. Chairman Dancho said he might be able to get Kevin Kelly to one of the meetings, perhaps he can explain the protocol.

Adjournment: There being no further items to discuss. MRS. CAPINERA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. DIMENNO. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:44 P.M.

Respectively Submitted,

Laurell Barr