

## **Conservation Commission Meeting**

**September 13, 2016**

**The Conservation Commission conducted a scheduled meeting on September 13, 2016 in Room 213 of Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, Connecticut.**

**Members Present: J. Dimenno, W. McCann, K. Rodia, A. Capinera, J. Koripsky, Mr. Heiden, J.E. Martin**

**Also Present: Conservation Administrator Ms. Batoh**

**Members Absent: Chairman Dancho**

**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 August 9, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Koripsky. The motion carried unanimously.**

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

**a. 795 James Farm Road: Formally denied by the Zoning Commission. Ms. Batoh stated we seem to be ok for now, so it will be taken off the table.**

**b. The Mayor had a meeting with the Beautification Committee chairwoman about the replanting of the trees. Ms. Batoh requested that the Mayor includes the Conservation Committee. He is having a scoping meeting and will include a representative from Conservation.**

**Ms. Batoh clarified with the members that some of the debris left by the UI Co., were brought on by the customers wanting the wood. Kyle (UI) talked with the subcontractors and it shouldn't happen again.**

**America the Beautiful grant: Ms. Batoh said she received the packet to finalize the grant materials. It will begin in the spring, and she is hoping to go forward on a community meeting to get some input. The Commission discussed; areas/types of trees/fruit forest. Discussion ensued. Ms. Batoh stressed not planting in the planting strips.**

**UI talked with Ms. Batoh about a biomass program they would like the town to partake in. When UI takes down these town trees they have to chop them up. If the town is willing to give them a space to do this, then they would give the chips to the town to sell for revenue. A couple of sites were mentioned; the old Mercer Coal Tower/former Lordship Blvd., Mobil gas station. She will investigate this program further before any decisions would be made. Discussion continued.**

### **Old Business:**

**Ms. Batoh followed up on the Community Farm (Pirhala); she was told a small non-profit group will oversee the farm. When she receives more information she will send it to the**

members. Mr. Dimenno believes the town should still have the final say about the productivity of the farm, he would like to see senior involvement plots, useful for the town's food kitchen. Ms. Rodia suggested maybe a clause could be put into practice that the town has the right to terminate for any reason. Discussion continued.

**New Business:**

The Great Pumpkin Festival will be on October 15th, 1-5pm at Booth Memorial Park. Ms. Batoh mentioned having a Halloween fun Conservation station, possibly something to further the community's interest. Mr. Koripsky said he would be able to provide a touch tank for this event, (shells, horseshoe crabs, turtles, etc.)

Ms. Batoh will get in contact with Hart Seed Co. for donations. Mr. Dimenno mentioned advertisement; flyers/signs and possibly making the Board of Education aware of this event.

Ms. Rodia brought up addressing the council so they understand they have the Conservation Commission as a resource. Also, a replacement is needed for Joe Gresko.

Mr. Dimenno mentioned he talked with the town's Planning Commission and said when it comes time to develop the Army Engine Plant we should have a group of town's people put forth what is best for this development; tourism, businesses, environmental protection, etc. Members contributed some ideas. Ms. Batoh said since working on Brownfield sites, she works closely with the developers and on what their intentions are. She keeps reiterating to them, this would be an amazing area for a Marine Science School; its location has all the right elements. It's still in an early development stage. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. McCann said when developing new town structures the buildings should be more eco-friendly. Conservation should be able to review the plans for future developments.

**Adjournment: There being no further items to discuss. MS. RODIA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MCCANN. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:50 P.M.**

**Respectively Submitted,**

**Laurell Barr**