

## **Conservation Commission Meeting**

**October 11, 2016**

The Conservation Commission conducted a scheduled meeting on October 11, 2016 in Room 213 of Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, Connecticut.

**Members Present:** Joe Dimenno, Karen Rodia, Angela Capinera, Joe Koripsky, J.E. Martin

**Also Present:** Conservation Administrator Tina Batoh, guest (town resident)

**Members Absent:** Chairman Greg Dancho, Mr. Heiden, William McCann

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

**Approval of Minutes:** J.E. MARTIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2016, WITH MR. DIMENNO'S CORRECTIONS UNDER NEW BUSINESS PARA. 4; HE SPOKE WITH A COUPLE OF THE ZONING MEMBERS, AND IN HIS OWN PERSONAL OPINION ANY PLAN PUT FORTH SHOULD HAVE "REAL" TOWNSPEOPLE INPUT. MS. RODIA SECONDED THE MOTION WITH THE CORRECTIONS IN PLACE. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

a. **795 James Farm Road:** The applicant has resubmitted an amended application; it is now 60 units, down 12 from the old plan. Ms. Batoh had the plans for the members to view. Ms. Batoh stated it still has the same significant environmental impact. Members' concurred, original comments still stand. Also, you can send any new commentaries to Ms. Batoh. She will keep members informed. Discussion ensued.

b. **Tree Removal and Replanting:** Ms. Batoh is still in the process of developing a tree replanting plan. She is working closely with the Beautification Committee, and would like to have a combined meeting with them once she has some sort of rubric in place. Commissioners discussed some areas where trees should be replanted: Booth Park (arboretum/specimen trees), Paradise Green (hit hard by UI), Lordship (dead trees needing to be removed, past tornado damage), and other areas mentioned were; Second Hill Lane, Wilcoxson, Chapel, Broadbridge. Members suggested each district area should be considered. Ms. Batoh discussed the different issues she encounters with town property owners; trees vs. no trees, however, members and herself agreed "safety" and "public" access was pertinent to whatever situation that is disputed. They spoke about possibly educating the public on tree maintenance. This could be useful for homeowners to understand each situation. Several targeted suggestions were: placing an article in the newspaper (Conservation Corner, Stratford Star), Facebook Page (Stratford Ladies) and reaching out to the District Council members, wherein they can convey to homeowners. Mr. Dimenno suggested to Ms. Batoh for the Lordship area, she could contact The Lordship Improvement Association. Discussion continued.

### **Old Business:**

**Reminder:** Great Pumpkin Festival, which will be held on Saturday, October 15th, from 1-5 p.m.

**Eco-friendly:** Ms. Batoh receives all the applications from P&Z to review. She indicates using green infrastructure. She said it's not town mandated, perhaps it is something she and Mr. Habansky (Planning and Zoning Administrator) can discuss for future regulations. Discussion ensued.

**New Business:**

**Ms. Rodia brought up a concern she had received. There seems to be a lot of litter at Paradise Green. Suggested ideas: small job for a high school student/store owners' responsibility.**

**MS. RODIA MADE A MOTION TO CANCEL THE NOVEMBER 8TH (ELECTION DAY) MEETING, AND IF WE NEED TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY CHAIRMAN DANCHO OR MR. DIMENNO IN A TIMELY MANNER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS. CAPINERA. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**A guest (town resident) at the meeting spoke about the tree removal and the replanting situation. She gave some ideas on how to entice homeowners to plant trees on their properties; matching program/town incentives/nursery discounts. Ms. Batoh felt the nursery discount could be doable; she will inquire further into this.**

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

**Respectively Submitted,**

**Laurell Barr**