

Roosevelt Forest Commission

July 27, 2016

The Roosevelt Forest Commission held a regular meeting on July 27, 2016 in Council Chambers of Stratford Town Hall as per notice duly posted.

Members Present: Chairman R. David, E. Watson, B. Ford, C. Emerson, A. Llewelyn, E. Scerba-Carey, F. Bevacqua, E. Bitsco

Call to Order: Chairman David called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Llewelyn made a motion to approve the minutes of May 16, 2016. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

A) Ultra Marathon – Mr. Loban, 1128 Fiddler Green, would like to organize a road race in Roosevelt Forest. Suggested two dates - September 24-25 or October 1-2. He noted he would be responsible for clean-up after the event and would like direction on the next step which should be taken. This would run from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and would like to have the approval for runners to camp in the forest. Chairman David has received an email from Tina Batoh, Conservation Administrator in support of this event. Commission members questioned liability, marketing of event, and camping at the forest.

Mr. Ford mentioned that the Bunnell High School cross-country team practices in the forest and event dates should be coordinated with J. Brown.

Mr. Emerson, boy scout leader, does not approve of out-of-towners camping in the forest which he feels sets a huge precedent. He does not have an issue with the race as long as the Police Department and EMS are on board.

Mr. Llewelyn suggested EMS be on site with their all-terrain vehicle.

Mr Llewelyn made a motion to allow the Ultra Marathon to take place pending approvals from all Town agencies and with the stipulation that dates do not conflict with the Bunnell High School cross-country team or boy scouts. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Manus. Mr. Emerson made a friendly amendment that camping will not be allowed and this will be a one-day event. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ford. The motions carried unanimously.

Old Business:

A) Beavers – Chairman David updated the Commission noting that L. Ciccarelli, Director of Public Safety, has put out RFP to select vendor to clear the culvert. Mosquito

testing has been negative for West Nile and Zika virus. Next testing will be done the first week of August.

- B) Dog Park** – Chairman David noted the last time dog park was presented to this commission was in 2013 at which time it was unanimous the Commission did not want a dog park in Roosevelt Forest. Ms. Solveira, Animal Control Officer, informed the Commission that she has spoken to the police department and they have no objection to putting a dog park at Roosevelt Forest.

Commissioners discussed having additional police presence, state laws for quarantines, location at forest.

Mr. Rich, 68 Willow Avenue, discussed other proposed areas of location for dog park noting animal control has issues with the WPCA property. He discussed formation of a sub-committee which would report to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Mr. Llewelyn commended Mr. Rich for forming the sub-committee. Ms. Manus is completely in support of having a dog park in Town. Mr. Jaekle discussed reasoning that the Short Beach Commission is against having dog park at beach.

T. Fardy, 1413 Cutspring Road, is opposed to any fenced in dog park

Ms. Lockshier, 776 Robin Lane, member of the Stratford Action Committee, noted the ranger house would have to come down if dog park is located in that area and also suggested the large grass field at the forest for possible location. She noted dog park would be for Stratford residents only, dogs would have to be registered and vaccinated and would only be accessible by key. She discussed rules and liability associated with park.

M. Rogarski, 150 Albert Avenue, would love to have dog park in Town but disagrees with key access to park.

L. Hernandez, 175 Cutspring Road, is in favor of park and feels it would be an asset to the community.

Mr. Llewelyn made a motion to table the dog park. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ford. The motion carried.

Seeing no other business to be discussed, Chairman David made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Watson. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail DeCilio

