

Conservation Commission
City of Danbury
October 20, 2008
7:30 p.m.
City Hall – Room 2C
Meeting Minutes

The meeting opened at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bill Montgomery - Chairman, Ed Prybylski – Vice Chairman, Shaun McColgan - Secretary, Linda Murray, Levi Newsome.

Absent/Excused: Rich Hale, Nelle Tresselt

Guests: Bill Mattison

Introductions by Commission members to Bill Mattison, prospective new commissioner, and by Bill Mattison to the Commission. Bill is a retired professor from Syracuse University who was the Director of the Environmental Design Department. Bill Montgomery explained that he has prepared a package of materials to all prospective new commission members; Bill Mattison, Kim Botelho, and Pat Weiner.

Item: **Approval of September 15, 2008 meeting** – Motion to approve - Lin, 2nd - Ed, vote – approved by all.

Reports: – Bear Mountain – Lin and Shaun.

Lin commented that the park is getting much more usage. Bill Montgomery commented on ongoing efforts to start the “Friends of Bear Mountain” group.

- Old Quarry Nature Center – no report this month.

Old Business:

Taylor Farm: an agreement to preserve the farm from future development was approved by the Common Council. Bill Montgomery spoke in approval of this at the last Common Council meeting.

Bear Mountain Reservation:

- New Trails- Bill explained how Lin noticed that a large portion of the north end of the reservation has no trails. A group has been working on blazing and marking new trails in this area. The trails need to be finalized and a decision made about how to mark the new trails. Other related matters to the new trails are a possible connector trail between two of the new trails around the peak and cleaning up the dump that was found by the new white trail.
- Red trail restoration- Bill met with Ted Cutsumpas from the Mayor’s Office and Dave Cook from Public Works. Shaun will contact Joe Pacific, who is currently doing trail and meadow mowing, about submitting a proposal to fix the culvert and trail erosion problem.
- Mowing of meadows- recently done for the first time in two years. There was discussion on how often the meadows should be mowed and the consensus was to do it once a year.
- Possible encroachment from Cristoferides property- the owners of the former Murtishi property may be doing clear cuttings on BMR property. City officials

checked on this and state it does not appear to be a violation but there is nothing definite yet. The city said they will continue to check on this and Bill stated he will continue to monitor it.

Key Initiatives: carried over to next meeting. Ed very briefly discussed the Kenosia boardwalk project, stating he is opposed to it and would like to see if volunteers might be interested in carrying forward with the project. He also does not recommend the use of bond money for this project.

New Business:

Old Quarry Nature Center: (note- not on agenda, but added at meeting on approval of members). Ed reported that he is working on cleaning up trails at OQNC now that the frost is setting in and killing the ticks.

New possible Commissioners: refer to beginning of minutes at introductions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. on a motion by Shaun, seconded by Levi, and approved by all.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 17, 7:30 p.m., Room 2C, City Hall.

Submitted by: Shaun McColgan – Commission Secretary.
10/27/08