

Conservation Commission
City of Danbury
April 20, 2009
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, Nelle Tresselt, Lin Murray, and Kim Botelho.

Absent / Excused: Pat Weiner

Guests: Jack Kozuchowski

Item: **Approval of March 16, 2009 meeting** – Motion to approve – Kim, 2nd- Nelle, vote – approved by all.

Reports:

Bear Mountain: Shaun, Lin, and Kim.

Kim reported some vandalism to sign posts on the trails. Some posts were pulled out and thrown up into trees. Kim got them down and reposted them. Lin mentioned her concern about people possibly looking to start fires on rocks on some of the trails.

Kim was officially welcomed as one of our new commissioners.

Still River Greenway: Jack

Jack gave the commission an update on the project. It was started in 1996, with a grand opening in 2000. The project was started to clean up chemicals along the greenway in Danbury. Jack presented a slide show and gave options to complete the Still River Greenway.

Option#1: A trailhead area to Loew's Theatre (most feasible).

Option#2: Finish greenway to Brookfield border as originally envisioned. This would be very costly and there are many impediments, such as easements needed (Housatonic Railroad, Stew Leonards), and State DOT requires handicap access.

Jack would like to have a new grand opening by the fall of 2009. Jack will do a specifications manual for completing segments three and four of the greenway, as shown in his slideshow. There was a discussion amongst commission members about the project.

Old Business:

Protection status of major parks and reservations – Bill handed out a report on Danbury's major parks and reservations. It was noted that the Common Council had an ad hoc committee in February of 2007 that met to protect parks and reservations, led by Council member Shay Nagarseth. A motion was made by Ed to send a new letter to the Council from the commission, seconded by Lin, and approved by all.

New Business:

Five year report to federal government on Bear Mountain Reservation – Bill presented commission members with copies of a report he prepared to the federal government (National Park Service) on the utilization of Bear Mountain, as required by law.

Key Initiatives – Bill handed out the Key Initiatives for the commission and asked for volunteers. Initiatives are as follows:

Bear Mountain Reservation and Still River Greenway mowing schedule and follow-up:

Lin

Bear Mountain Reservation meadow management: Kim

Bear Mountain Reservation trail blazing, mapping and management: Kim and Lin

Budgeting and financial management: not assigned

Commission development – alternate members, future members, chairman succession plan, new directions, etc.: not assigned

Mill Plain Swamp education and recreation alternatives: Kim

(Added at meeting) Old Quarry Nature Center trail clean-up and management: Nelle and Ed

Still River Greenway project (segment #2): Nelle

Recyclable barrels (added at meeting) – Lin is going to contact Dave Cook at Public Works about getting recyclable barrels for BMR and OQNC.

Shaun made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill and approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. (new meeting time), Room 2C, City Hall.

Submitted by: Shaun McColgan – Commission Secretary.

05/16/09