

Conservation Commission
City of Danbury
December 21, 2009
7:00 p.m.
City Hall – Room 2C
Meeting Minutes

The meeting opened at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Linda Murray - Chairwoman, Ed Prybylski – Vice Chairman, Shaun McColgan - Secretary, Bill Montgomery, Nelle Tresselt, and Kim Botelho-Commissioners.

Absent / Excused: Pat Weiner

Guests: Jack Kozuchowski, Debra Siepmann

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

Reports:

Still River Greenway (SRG) and Ives Trail: Jack

The first new SRG event is tentatively scheduled for the 1st or 2nd week of June. The Mayor is committed to the SRG development. The revival of the Still River Alliance (SRA) is underway and they are looking at 501©3 status. Jack requested a budget increase to continue / expand mowing at SRG.

Bear Mountain (BMR): Shaun, Lin, and Kim.

The post has been put up for the bird blind (Eagle Scout project), but the project is not finished yet. Everything else is going well at BMR with no complaints.

Old Quarry Nature Center (OQNC): Ed and Nelle

Lin reported that she received e-mail correspondence from at approx. 4 PM today from Gio and Per regarding the OQNC. Copies were distributed to all members for review. After review it was decided that Lin will correspond with Gio and Per that the commission is not in agreement with the written materials (OQNC minutes, The “Overall Principles” memo, or the e-mail itself) that they submitted.

There was a general discussion about what the commission would like to see in the way of opening up the OQNC to everyone.

Old Business:

Key Initiatives:

BMR and SRG mowing: The commission discussed the mowing budget and concerns with Jack, especially regarding the SRG.

BMR meadow management: Kim handed out Autumn Olive jam to the members.

Nothing new to report.

Budget management: Jack offered some advice on the budget from his past experience as the city’s direct advisor to the Conservation Commission. There was discussion about

asking for a budget increase for the mowing, or possibly having to move other monies around within the budget to cover mowing needs.

Commission development: no discussion as Pat was not able to be at the meeting.

Mill Plain Swamp: nothing new to report.

OQNC: contained in other sections of these minutes

SRG expansion: Jack reported that phase one is almost complete. Phase two would require additional funding, that presently isn't available, before it can be started.

Added layer of protection for major parks: Bill reported that there will be an ad-hoc committee meeting of the Common Council on Jan. 5, 2010, at 6 PM, in City Hall. He encouraged all members to attend.

New Business:

Increased use of OQNC and related matters:

The entire board had a lengthy discussion about future uses of the OQNC. It was determined that our commission would like to meet with the "Friends of the OQNC" to establish mutual goals, both short term (one year) and long term (five years).

It was determined that the proper and only recognized name of OQNC is the Old Quarry Nature Center, and no other variations or uses are acceptable to the commission.

The commission will work with the Friends of OQNC to open up public access. Lin will reach out to them about a meeting of our two boards to come up with some common goals that both boards are interested in pursuing. It was further recommended that both boards keep each other informed of all meetings (including dates, times, and location) so that members of each board may attend the others meetings.

Ed made a motion to adjoin, seconded by Bill, and approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 25, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., Room 2C, City Hall.

Submitted by: Shaun McColgan – Commission Secretary.

01/18/09