

Conservation Commission  
City of Danbury  
Sept. 20, 2010  
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, Kim Botelho, Nelle Tresselt, and Pat Weiner -Commissioners.

Absent / Excused: Bill Montgomery – Commissioner.

Guests: Per Larson, Gio Ogno, Peter Johnson, Randy Rosario, Tom Worden, and Christine Rotello.

Item: **Approval of June 21, 2010 meeting minutes** – Motion to approve – Nelle, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Ed, vote – approved by all.

**Reports:**

Old Quarry Nature Center (OQNC): Ed, Pat, Friends of OQNC.

David Gropper has resigned from the Friends of OQNC, an advisory board that reports to the Conservation Commission. Peter Johnson and Randy Rosario have joined the board of Friends of OQNC.

There is a problem with fallen trees across some paths and the city has not yet responded to getting the trees removed.

It was noted that Toll Brothers is building a new development behind OQNC.

There is a problem with ATVs on OQNC.

Gio, our advisor for OQNC, is holding a meeting tomorrow, 9/21, at Tarrywile Park with Nature Center Directors about getting middle school students more involved at OQNC.

There was discussion on use of the building at OQNC and its future use. The commission is concerned that the building and Nature Center is closed up too much and needs to be opened up for public use.

Ed talked to the Boy Scouts about camping at OQNC. Per stated that Friends of OQNC doesn't allow camping. It was explained to him that Friends of OQNC had no authority to deny anyone that right (nor allow it either) which is allowed by the Parks Department, with a permit.

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

Lin reported that she attended a volunteer fair with a Conservation Commission/BMR board of what we do.

Lin reported that there were possibly six (6) new volunteers interested in helping with trail cleanup.

There was discussion about cleaning up the frame of the old building at the trailhead for future use.

Still River Greenway (SRG): Ed, Nelle, Lin, Pat.

Lin reported that the trails have been mowed.

**Old Business / Key Initiatives:**

Lin briefly went through the key initiatives list from the meeting agenda.

**New Business:**

Lee Farm property: Christine Rotello, Nelle.

A group has been formed, “The Friends of Lee Farm” to discuss the use of the property. It is currently being looked at by the US Army as a possible Reserve Center. The Friends of Lee Farm have sent a letter to the heirs of the property asking them to donate the land to the city. A letter was sent back to the group declining to do so. The group also met with some city officials about acquiring the Lee Farm property under the Open Space Bond.

Some of the new group held a meeting recently with the Mayor to discuss the possible uses for the property.

A letter has been written by Friends of Lee Farm, asking the US Army to reconsider the location of the Reserve Center and members of the Conservation Commission were asked to sign the letter.

**Progress of Open Space Bond Issue Properties:**

This item was covered under the Lee Farm property discussion.

Motion to adjourn by Pat, seconded by Ed, and approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, October 18, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., Room 2C, City Hall.

Submitted by: Shaun McColgan – Commission Secretary.  
10/07/10