

Conservation Commission

City of Danbury

Oct. 18, 2010

7:00 p.m.

City Hall – Room 2C

Meeting Minutes

The meeting opened at approximately 7p.m

Members present: Linda Murray – Chairperson, Ed Prybylski – Vice Chairperson, Shaun McColgan – Secretary, Kim Botelho (acting Secretary), Nelle Tresselt, Patricia Weiner and Bill Montgomery – Commissioners.

Guests: Gio Ogno and Peter Johnson.

Item: **Approval of September 20, 2010 meeting minutes** – Motion to approve – Ed, 2nd – Nelle – approved by all.

Reports:

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

Peter (from Friends of OQNC) reported that four hinges need to be replaced in the field house. The Friends of OQNC hosted an open house on Oct. 2nd and 15 people attended. There are maps on both kiosks and in the field house and another open house is planned for this coming spring. Peter also mentioned an interest in managing evasive plants in OQNC using herbicide and burning methods but agreed to do some more research on alternative methods as well. He also mentioned possibly hosting a seminar on proper use of pesticides and composting toilets to bring the community into OQNC. Peter brought a copy of an updated map of the trails...still a work in progress but it looked great!

Gio spoke about a meeting he attended with directors of nature centers all over New England which was about getting their communities more actively involved in their facilities. When asked what he discovered he mentioned that that information was confidential and not up for discussion. Lin mentioned that in order for The Friends of OQNC to accept or solicit donations they had to be a 501C3 and that form was soon going to be available online.

Bear Mountain Reservation (BMR) - Lin, Kim and Shaun.

Full moon hike is planned for this Friday the 22nd at BMR. Lin met with Athletes in Action and is in the progress of getting volunteers to do various projects at BMR and Still River Greenway . The Scavenger Hunt Mailbox is up and ready to go...have had a lot of compliments about it so far.

Still River Greenway (SRG) – Nelle

Nelle spoke about The Still River Alliance meeting which will be held this week without Jack Kozuchowski and the fact that their organization is lacking a definite plan of action which is needed so Jack can eventually step down. The Commission agreed to continue mowing the SRG. We also agreed to recommend to the city that we keep Jack on board for at least another year as a paid advisor and not a chairperson.

Old Business/Key Initiatives:

BMR/SRG Mowing – Lin

Meadow Management - Kim

Lin met with Kevin Schultz and estimated the cost of cutting and chipping the Autumn Olive trees to be too cost prohibitive...we will slowly prune back the young trees ourselves throughout the fall and winter.

Budget Management – Lin

Lin reports the budget is in good shape.

Commission Development – Pat

There are no empty seats at the moment however having two alternates may be a good idea.

Mill Plain Swamp – Kim and Lin

We have to go out and check the trails and scout locations to put up birdhouses.

OQNC – All

We are in the process of bringing the building and trail system up to code and blazed.

Added layer of protection for major parks – Bill

Announced that the Ad Hoc Committee meeting for Tarrywile Park is being held on October 25, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall in the Conference Room on the third floor and urged us all to attend.

New Business:

Lee Farm Property – Nelle

There is a moratorium now.

Progress of Open Space Bond Issue Properties - Lin

Other: Still River Greenway Alliance & the CC

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., Room 2C, City Hall.