

Conservation Commission
City of Danbury
Dec. 20, 2010
7:00 p.m.
City Hall – Room 2C
Meeting Minutes

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BY: LK

The meeting opened at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Members present: Linda Murray - Chairwoman, Ed Prybylski – Vice Chairman, Shelia

McColgan - Secretary, Kim Botelho, Nelle Tresselt, and Pat Weiner -Commissioners.

Absent / Excused: none. There is one vacancy on the Commission.

Guests: Joe DiComo.

Public speaking: none

Item: **Approval of November 15, 2010 meeting minutes** – Motion to approve – Ed, 2nd-
Nelle, vote – approved by all.

Reports:

Still River Greenway (SRG): Nelle, Lin.

Lin attended a meeting of the SRG Alliance. Nelle could not because she was out of town. Lin reported that they are working on their mission statement. It was noted that the Greenway belongs to the City of Danbury under a conservation easement but not the river.

Jack Kozuchowski is working on an invasive species grant through the city Health Department.

The Conservation Commission is maintaining the mowing contract for SRG.

Old Quarry Nature Center (OQNC): Ed, Lin.

The city is drafting a letter to the Friends of OQNC, through Corporation Counsel, from Recreation Director Nick Kaplanis. The letter will explain to the Friends what legally they can and can't do at OQNC. After the letter from the city is delivered the Conservation Commission will follow up with its own letter to the Friends.

The OQNC website and links will be removed from the city website in the near future.

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

The trailhead kiosk is finished at BMR. The scavenger hunt drop box is working very well. Fifty "I spy" sheets were placed in the box and during a recent check only two sheets were left.

The trails have been cleared of leaves and the mowing is done.

Lin and Kim are looking into scheduling another full moon walk at BMR.

Old Business / Key Initiatives:

Lin briefly went through the key initiatives list from the meeting agenda. Autumn Olive management at BMR is being worked on. The budget is \$10,024.00, down \$5000.00 from last year.

Commission Development – Pat is going to set up a meeting with Ted Cutsumpas from the Mayor’s office. It was noted that city ordinances state that commissions and boards must be politically balanced.

New Business:

Lee Farm property: Nelle, Joe DiComo.

An ad-hoc committee meeting was held and attended by City Council members and the Mayor. There was no public speaking allowed. The Mayor is looking for a new assessment of the property. Joe DiComo pointed out, with maps, that the 300 acres are split up over 18 separate parcels. The US Army has signed an “option to buy”. The commissioners would like to attend the next ad-hoc meeting.

Progress of Open Space Bond Issue Properties:

Jack K is looking for commissioners to mark and clear trails at the recently acquired Farrington property.

Deer Culling: There was a discussion on whether to allow deer culling on city parks property. It is being researched by city officials and they are looking for input.

Letter to Bill Montgomery: A letter from the Commission will be going out to former chairman and long time commissioner Bill Montgomery, thanking him for his service. Bill recently resigned from the Commission.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., Room 2C, City Hall.

Submitted by: Shaun McColgan – Commission Secretary.

01/19/11