



CITY OF DANBURY
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Conservation Commission

December 16, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Danbury Police Department-Community Classroom
Meeting Minutes

The meeting opened at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Members present: Linda Murray - Chairwoman, Shaun McColgan - Secretary, Ed Moore, and Kim Botelho - Commissioners. Elyse Jasensky, Rich Hale, Jack Robbins – Alternates.

Absent/Excused: Ed Prybylski, Brian Batterson, Peter Jennings

Guests: Tom Murray, Jacob Westney, Zulma Westney

Item: Approval of minutes from November 18, 2013 meeting. Motion to approve by Jack, seconded by Shaun, and approved by all.

NOTE: This meeting had to be moved to the Police Department as City Hall was locked, again. This is the second time in three months and the third time since July that the Conservation Commission has been locked out of City Hall for its regularly scheduled meeting.

Public speaking: Eagle Scout Jacob Westney presented his Eagle Scout project for Farrington Woods at this time. It is listed below under “New Business”.

Jacob Westney presented his project to the commission for approval. His project involves building and installing owl boxes and bat houses at Farrington Woods. It is scheduled to be done in early spring 2014. He also presented commission members with a multi-page handout detailing the project. Motion to approve by Kim, seconded by Jack, and approved by all.

Reports:

Still River Greenway (SRG): The Still River Alliance (SRA) should have been changed to a city commission and should have been approved at the last City Council meeting.

Old Quarry Nature Center (OQNC): The trails are looking good overall.

The commission received a donation check from Elyse in the amount of \$250.00. This was from monies raised doing field trips at OQNC. Lin has a name of a city contracted exterminator for termites and bees and will contact them about the field house.

Bear Mountain Reservation (BMR): Rich has cleared some trails and Kim has blazed some. Nothing else is new.

Farrington Woods trails: The trails continue to be worked on.

Budget Management:

Fiscal year accomplishments for 2013-2014.



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-Volunteers continued to clear and maintain all of the trails at Bear Mountain Reservation and Old Quarry Nature Center at no cost to the City of Danbury. Trees that were damaged in last year's storms continue to fall and block the trails requiring many hours of work.

-Overseeing the removal and reconstruction of the amphitheater at Old Quarry Nature Center. It can now be used by Scouts and other groups as a gathering place for various activities.

-Increased the use of the Field House at Old Quarry Nature Center by improving the interior with bulletin boards and activity tables. A science teacher has given lessons to over three hundred Danbury elementary students this fall.

Major Objectives

1. Reconstruction of the red trail which leads to the large meadow at BMR which is severely eroded, and repair the fence.
2. Continue to work with CTNEMBA (CT-New England Mountain Biking Association) on the construction of sustainable multiuse trails at Farrington Woods.
3. Make improvements to the Field House at Old Quarry Nature Center by exterminating carpenter bees and termites, which are necessary to continue expansion of student programs.

New Business:

New representative for SRA: Nothing new. See Reports above for additional information regarding the SRA.

Eagle Scout projects: See public speaking section above.

FCI and BMR: The Federal Correctional Facility (FCI) at Danbury and the Conservation Commission are working together to allow emergency access to City of Danbury emergency vehicles for incidents at BMR requiring same. A draft letter is being prepared for the Danbury Fire Department and will be forwarded once completed and approved by the FCI and this commission.

CT Trails Day: The registration form to participate in this event, as we have done in years past, is due in February. Trails Day is scheduled for June 7-8, 2014.

Other concerns: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 27, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., Room 3C, City Hall, if open.

Submitted by: Shaun McColgan – Commission Secretary. 01/05/14