

Conservation Commission  
City of Danbury  
November 17, 2008  
7:30 p.m.  
City Hall – Room 2C  
Meeting Minutes

The meeting opened at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bill Montgomery - Chairman, Ed Prybylski – Vice Chairman, Shaun McColgan - Secretary, Linda Murray, Levi Newsome, Nelle Tresselt.

Absent/Excused: Rich Hale

Guests: Patricia Weiner

Introductions by Commission members to Pat Weiner, prospective new commissioner, and by Pat Weiner.

Item: **Approval of October 20, 2008 meeting** – Motion to approve - Levi, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Nelle, vote – approved by all.

**Reports:** – Bear Mountain – Lin and Shaun.

Shaun spoke about putting up a new US flag, and last month's incident at the park where a group forced open the exit gate at night. The group left when Shaun heard the noise and went outside, re-securing the gate. He also notified Public Works Supervisor Dave Cook about the incident and requested the gate be made more secure. Shaun also reported that the sinkhole by the parking lot was repaired by Public Works and he has contacted Joe Pacific about the erosion problem on the trails but has yet to hear back from Joe.

Lin reported that she cleared the green trail today. She met with Boy Scout Chris Van Akin, who is putting together a group to keep the trails cleared as part of a Scout project. Lin also reported that a quad has been on the trails and causing damage. She believes it is entering from a private residence abutting park property.

Bill thanked Lin for all her work and efforts at BMR.

**Old Business:**

**Bear Mountain Reservation:**

- New Trails- Lin and others have been marking new trails with a color and a letter. Rich Hale has paint for trail marking and Lin will talk to Rich about mixing the paints to make some new colors, which will save the Commission money.
- Signs- Bill talked to Boy Scout Mike Gillotti about his Scout project to repair or create new signage for the park. Bill said Mike was going to try to make tonight's meeting if possible. Bill reminded Mike that the Commission needs to approve the project before he can begin it.

**Kenosia Avenue Swamp Boardwalk and Bird Viewing Area:** Jack Kozuchowski, our consultant, sent Bill a letter in reference to this matter. Some alternate ideas, other than the boardwalk, were also discussed, such as using canoes instead of building a boardwalk to give access to the area, or building a platform versus a boardwalk. The matter was discussed at length. Some members are against the boardwalk project and some in favor of it. It was also discussed about scaling back the size of the project. The following

motion was made by Levi: “that we move forward with requesting RFP’s (Requests for Proposals) to study the feasibility of various ways of accessing the swamp for educational purposes.” The motion was seconded by Nelle and approved by all.

Protection of major parks and reservations: Bill discussed adding a layer of protection against possible future development at the city’s five major parks and reservations; Bear Mountain Reservation, Old Quarry Nature Center, Tarrywile Park, Richter Park, and the Dryska property (approx. 21 acres located off Chambers Road). The Common Council had an ad-hoc committee meeting in February of 2007 about this issue. Bill spoke to the committee chairman, Shay Nagaraseth, to check on the status of the committee and will report back when he hears more information.

**New Business:**

Old Quarry Nature Center: (note- not on agenda, but added at meeting on approval of members). Ed reported that he spoke to Gio Ogno recently and all is going well at the Nature Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. on a motion by Levi, seconded by Ed, and approved by all.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, December 15, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., Room 2C, City Hall.

Submitted by: Shaun McColgan – Commission Secretary.

11/23/08