

Conservation Commission  
City of Danbury  
June 15, 2009  
7:00 p.m.  
City Hall – Room 2C  
Meeting Minutes

The meeting opened at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Bill Montgomery - Chairman, Ed Prybylski – Vice Chairman, Shaun McColgan - Secretary, Lin Murray, Pat Weiner, and Kim Botelho.

Absent / Excused: Nelle Tresselt

Guests: Jack Kozuchowski, Gio Ogno, Mike Cunningham

Item: **Approval of May 18, 2009 meeting** – Motion to approve – Ed, 2<sup>nd</sup>- Pat, vote – approved by all.

**Reports:**

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

Lin led off the discussion by showing a version of the new trail maps to all present. She would like to put up a large version of the new map at the trailhead. There was discussion on the size and cost of the map. Lin made a motion to approve up to \$300.00 to have a large version map made and posted at Bear Mountain. Seconded by Ed and approved by all.

The members discussed the possible encroachment onto Bear Mountain property by a private landowner (Christoferides) who is building a house and also doing tree clearing. Although the city previously reported that the homeowner was staying within the confines of his property, Bill has again e-mailed Ted Cutsumpas in the Mayor's Office regarding the concerns of Kim, Lin, and others. Ted promised to investigate and report back. Bill will follow-up on this. (This matter is listed on the agenda under old business but was discussed at this time.)

Next discussed was the meadow management at BMR and what to do about the invasive shrub that is shrinking the meadow, the Autumn Olive. One possibility is to hire a consultant to determine a plan of action. Bill asked Kim to draft a version of what we want to do for the meadow.

Lin and Kim report that someone keeps pulling out signposts and then replanting them in the wrong place. This is an ongoing problem and no culprits have been identified thus far. The dog cleanup signs posted by Shaun appear to be effective and doing the job intended.

Old Quarry Nature Center (OQNC): Gio and Ed

Gio handed out the meeting minutes of the last OQNC meeting on 6/9/09. He is looking to get three bids for a possible well, for use in starting a garden at OQNC. Gio is getting involved with the "Master Gardeners" program. There was a discussion among the members but no action taken at this time.

Gio reported that he is linking up with Executive Directors of nature centers all over New England and has become the regional director of the western CT network.

The city mowed the upper part of the quarry.

Gio repainted the sign for the OQNC on Mountainville Road.  
OQNC bank balance as of 5/30/09 = \$2997.13

**Old Business:**

Key Initiatives: Jack and Nelle walked the Still River Greenway (SRG) and developed a punch list of ideas geared toward a grand re-opening in September with the new truncated version. They would also like to see the SRG Task Force start up again. Jack and Ed plan to meet next week at SRG for further discussions.

Lin called about the BMR and SRG mowing schedules and cleanups

Bill and Pat met to discuss opportunities for commission development; for example – alternate members, future members, chairman succession plan, etc.

Protection status of major parks and reservations – The Commission has recommended that the Mayor and Common Council add a layer of protection to the five major parks and reservations. The Mayor has now agreed to direct the Common Council ad hoc committee to specifically address Tarrywile Park as the highest priority.

Kovacs property, Brushy Hill Road – Ed and Pat

The property is 36 acres and almost completely surrounded by Tarrywile Park. It is owned by Ken Kovacs under the name, “City View Farm LLC”. There has been no movement in years on the property and there is interest in acquiring the property for Tarrywile.

**New Business:**

Dreamscapers request re: Still River Greenway mowing payment.

Dreamscapers have requested an extra \$350.00 over their original contract price (\$1300.00) to cover expenses. There has been a recommendation by city officials not to pay the additional amount as it all should have been included in the original bid. They are claiming they had to do extra work that was not contracted for in the original bid. There was a discussion on what exactly Dreamscapers is contracted to do and how well they are, or aren't doing it.

Motion made by Pat that Dreamscapers provide documentation to the commission of a changed circumstance between time of original quote and time of job, before paying any extra monies. Seconded by Lin and approved by all.

ID's for Commissioners (added by Ed): Ed asked the commission to consider issuing baseball hats to commissioners as a way to identify who we are when out in public, on commission business. Ed stated that commissioners had hats issued years ago and brought in his to show the commissioners. There was discussion on other forms of ID's that the commission could use, such as an ID card issued by the city. No decisions were made at this time.

July and August meetings: Ed made a motion that we dispense of the summer meetings as is traditionally done, seconded by Kim, and approved by all.

Ed made a motion to adjoin, seconded by Pat, and approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, September 21, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., Room 2C, City Hall.

Submitted by: Shaun McColgan – Commission Secretary.

07/05/09