

Conservation Commission
City of Danbury
September 21, 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, Nelle Tresselt, and Kim Botelho-Commissioners.

Absent / Excused:

Guests:

Item: **Approval of June 15, 2009 meeting** – Motion to approve – Ed, 2nd - Kim, vote – approved by all.

Reports:

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

Kim reported that the sign posts for the new park signs have been installed (ongoing Eagle Scout project).

Lin painted the “JFK Trails” sign at the trailhead. There was a discussion about the large sign board next to it. Lin has the new large trail map but it doesn’t fill the entire space and she would like suggestions on what else can be put up there.

Mowing is going great.

Kim asked about suggestions for use of the old barn foundation at the trailhead. At this time it was decided to leave it as is in part due to it being covered in poison ivy and poison sumac.

Lin reports that the old Murtishi property that is being developed adjacent to BMR is encroaching about five to ten feet onto reservation land. This is an ongoing matter and the city is aware of it.

Shaun reported that the shed and ranger cottage exteriors have been repaired and painted by city Public Buildings employees.

Old Quarry Nature Center (OQNC): Ed

Ed and Nelle have been clearing and cleaning the trails.

Gio sent a letter and a set of OQNC meeting minutes to the commission for their review. It was only received the day of the meeting so commissioners had little time to review it.

A copy of the letter and minutes will be filed with these minutes. There was much discussion about Gio’s role versus the commission’s role pertaining to the OQNC. A possible meeting may be set up with Gio to clarify issues, concerns, his function, and the function of OQNC. A motion was made by Shaun, seconded by Kim to continue the matter and decisions on Gio’s letter to next month’s meeting. Motion approved by all.

Old Business:

Key Initiatives:

Still River Greenway (SRG): Nelle discussed the resurrection of the Still River Greenway Alliance (SRGA), which Jack Kozuchowski has recommended restarting too. There will be a meeting in October about the SRGA. Jack has submitted for a Recreational Trails Grant for the SRG. Awards will be announced in February of 2010.

Bill went through the list of other initiatives but at this time there is nothing new to discuss.

New Business:

Gio's future reports. See minutes under Old Business.

Commission Chairman election:

Bill has expressed his desire to give up the commission chairmanship due to his other duties, especially with the Danbury Land Trust. When he accepted the chairmanship (in June 2006) it was on a temporary basis (was suppose to be one meeting only) until a new chairman could be elected. Lin has expressed her desire to be Chairwoman of the Commission. After discussion there was a nomination by Ed for Lin to be our new Chairwoman, seconded by Kim. The vote was unanimous and Lin will take over as Chairwoman effective with the October meeting. Bill will remain on the Commission at least through next summer. The Commissioners expressed their deep thanks and appreciation to Bill for all he has done for the commission during his tenure as Chairman.

Ed made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lin, and approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., Room 2C, City Hall.

Submitted by: Shaun McColgan – Commission Secretary.

10/15/09