

Conservation Commission
City of Danbury
Jan. 23, 2012
7:00 p.m.
City Hall – Room 3C
Meeting Minutes

The meeting opened at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Members present: Linda Murray - Chairwoman, Shaun McColgan – Secretary, Kim Botelho, and Brian Batterson – Commissioners.

Absent / Excused: Ed Prybylski, Nelle Tresselt. One vacancy remains on the commission.

Guests: John Foley, Jack Kozuchowski

Public speaking opportunity: Mr. Foley spoke to the commission about a research project proposal for Old Quarry Nature Center (OQNC) studying the Eastern Box Turtle.

After his presentation Kim made a motion that we accept and approve his project at OQNC, seconded by Brian, and approved unanimously.

Item: **Approval of Dec. 19, 2011 meeting minutes** – Nelle did the minutes for the December meeting as Shaun was absent. Nelle could not attend tonight and is having computer problems so the minutes are not ready yet.

Reports:

Still River Greenway (SRG): Jack reported that there is still no director for the Still River Greenway Alliance (SRGA) but they are working on it.

A clean up day is needed due to storm damage.

A Japanese knotweed project has begun at SRG. It is a three year project.

Old Quarry Nature Center (OQNC): Brian reported that most trails have been cleared of storm debris.

Lin reported on a break-in at the field house. She is still in discussions with United Alarm about the alarm system at the field house.

Bear Mountain Reservation (BMR): The tree in the parking lot that was damaged by the October storm has been cut down by city workers. Shaun reported that there has been some additional work done on trees around the driveway, also by city workers, but more remains to be done.

Old Business / Key Initiatives:

Budget management: Lin reported that there is money still available in our budget to purchase stain for the OQNC field house should we decide to stain the building.

New Business:

Conservation Commission vacancy: We still have one vacancy.

Participation in CT Trails Day: The commission wants to participate again at OQNC and BMR, as it did last year. Lin will make arrangements.

Partnership with FCI at BMR: Lin reported that the FCI (federal prison next to BMR) has drafted a proposal to help the commission with trail maintenance at BMR. This would

involve female prisoners coming to BMR on a regular basis to work on the trails. Final approval has not been given yet.

Other: Lin is working on a meeting with Pete Prunty from the Mayor's office to go over Conservation Commission items.

Jack discussed a program involving the Student Conservation Association (SCA). The SCA sponsors one project a year and is interested in sponsoring a project in Danbury this year. Ten trained youth volunteers would work in Danbury during July and August on projects involving conservation. It does require a matching grant from the city. Jack will keep the commission advised as to the status of the program.

Brian made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kim, and approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., Room 3C, City Hall.

Submitted by Shaun McColgan – Commission Secretary.

01/28/2012