

Committee of the Whole--Addition of Alternates to the Conservation Commission, Code of Ordinance, Section 2-56.8
Danbury City Council
29-July-2013

President Cavo called the Committee of the Whole to order at 8:27pm for the purpose of discussion the addition of alternatives the Conservation Commission.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Philip Curran, Michael Haddad, Warren Levy, Gregg Seabury, Colleen Stanley, Phillip Colla, Joseph Cavo, Thomas Saadi, Fred Visconti, Andrew Wetmore, Peter Nero, Duane Perkins, Benjamin Chianese, Paul Rotello, Joseph Scozzafava, and Mary Teicholz.

ABSENT: Jack Knapp, Donald Taylor, Shay Nagarsheth, Mike Halas, and Elmer Palma.

Councilman Knapp was out of town
Council Members Taylor, Nagarsheth, Halas, and Palma had work obligations.

ALSO PRESENT: Robert J. Yamin, Corporation Counsel; Laszlo Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel; and Attorney Daniel Casagrande

President Cavo asked Mr. Pinter to address the council on this issue. Mr. Pinter stated the request came to the City Council via the Mayor by the Chairman of the Conservation Commission to add alternates. The Ad hoc committee recommended the addition of 3 alternates to the Commission. Those changes are in the Ordinance.

A motion was made by Andrew Wetmore and seconded by Benjamin Chianese to recommend the adoption of amendments to Code of Ordinances Section 2-56.8 including authorizing the designation of three alternate members to the Conservation Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Gregg Seabury and seconded by Andrew Wetmore to adjourn. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shani Burke Specht
Recording Secretary



ORDINANCE

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT CITY COUNCIL

_____ A.D. 2013

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Danbury:

Sec. 2-56.6 - Conservation commission—Created; general powers and duties.

A conservation commission is hereby established for the Town of Danbury for the development and the conservation of natural resources, including water resources, in said municipality. It shall conduct researches into the utilization and possible utilization of land areas of the municipality and may coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purpose, and may advertise, prepare and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets as necessary for its purposes. It shall keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wet lands, for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of such areas, and may from time to time recommend to the chief executive officer, or the legislative body or the planning commission, plans and programs for the development and use of such areas, which may include the acquisition of conservation easements. It may acquire land in the name of the municipality for any of its purposes. It shall keep records of its meetings and activities and shall make an annual report to the municipality in the manner required of other agencies. The commission may receive gifts in the name of the municipality for any of its purposes and shall administer the same for such purposes subject to the terms of the gift, subject to the approval of the legislative body of the municipality. The commission shall have all the rights and powers conferred upon it pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut.

Sec. 2-56.7. Conservation of open spaces.

(a) When used in this section, "municipality" shall mean the Town of Danbury; "open space" or "open area" means any space or area the preservation or restriction of the use of which would:

- (1) Maintain or enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources;
- (2) Protect natural streams or water supply;
- (3) Promote conservation of soils, wet lands, beaches or tidal marshes;
- (4) Enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations or sanctuaries, or other open areas and open spaces;
- (5) Afford or enhance public recreation opportunities;
- (6) Preserve historic sites;
- (7) Implement the plan of development adopted by the planning commission of the municipality; or
- (8) Promote orderly urban or suburban development.

(b) The municipality may, by vote of its legislative body, and if the municipality has a planning or planning and zoning commission or is included within the area of jurisdiction of any such commission, with the prior approval of such commission, by purchase, gift, grant, devise, lease or otherwise acquire land, easements and interests or rights in real property, and enter into covenants and agreements with owners of land and owners of interests in land, to maintain, improve, protect, limit the future use of or otherwise conserve open spaces or open areas within its boundaries.

(c) The municipality, corporation or authority having the power of eminent domain may acquire by purchase or by condemnation any real property or interest acquired pursuant to sections 2-56.6 and 2-56.7

(d) The provisions of section 48-6 of the General Statutes of Connecticut shall not apply to any acquisition under sections 2-56.6 and 2-56.7

Sec. 2-56.8. Composition; appointment, removal of members; election of chairman.

(a) The commission shall consist of seven (7) members, who are electors of said municipality, to be appointed by the chief executive officer of the municipality, and confirmed by the City Council, for the following terms:

Three (3) members to serve for three (3) years;

Two (2) members to serve for two (2) years;

Two (2) members to serve for one (1) year; and their successors to serve three (3) year terms thereafter.

(b) Three (3) alternates to the Commission shall be appointed by the chief executive officer of the Municipality and confirmed by the City Council. The alternate members shall, when seated, have all the powers and duties of a member of the Commission. The alternate members shall serve for two (2) years.

(c) The chief executive officer may remove any member or alternate for cause and fill any vacancy for an unexpired term. Each member and alternate shall serve until his or her successor is duly appointed and qualified.

(d) The conservation commission shall elect its own chairman.

Sec. 2-56.9. Compensation.

The members of the conservation commission shall serve without salary.