

**Beacon Falls Conservation Commission
10 Maple Ave
Beacon Falls, CT 06403**

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BEACON FALLS TOWN CLERK



REVISED Meeting Minutes, November 1, 2010

Chair Betkoski called the regular monthly meeting of the Beacon Falls Conservation Commission to order at 7:31 p.m.

Present: Chair D. Betkoski, Vice Chair A. Goerig, Commissioners: J. Goerig (7:50 p.m.), C. Bielick and W. Chellis.

Absent: Commissioner: C. Yanarella.

Minutes of October

Motion was made by Commissioner Bielick and seconded by Commissioner Goerig to approve the minutes of October as submitted.

Discussion: None Vote: 4 in favor Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0

Public Comment – none

Correspondence – none

Storm water Management

Chair Betkoski noted that she has contacted two of the groups that were helping mark the remaining storm drains for the area of Blackberry Hill and near the Bethany line all but one drained marked. The Boy Scouts has the remaining markers and sealer and they will take care of the final drains in the Pinesbridge area and Lopus Road. A complete inventory has been given to them to complete the marking. Possibly marking will be done this Saturday if the temperature is not lower than 50 degrees.

Outreach

Vice Chair Goerig mentioned the Regional Naugatuck Valley Greenway Presentation held on October 21st. There was an article in the newspaper. The greenway study has been received. Commissioner Chellis stated that the COG website has made it available. Chair Betkoski mentioned it is important item that was discussed at the Land Use meeting. Also mentioned was the importance of incorporating this project into the Plan of Conservation and Development and other project being worked on – Riverbend Project. It should be coordinated to minimize any duplication of planning and administrative costs associated with managing and coordinating the project.

Natural Resource Inventory Program

Commissioner Chellis noted that the subcommittee did not meet. They are working on setting up another date. There is not much to report.

Open Space Management

Chair Betkoski stated she emailed Elaine at ERT and is awaiting the forestry report. She emailed what she had. It is close to completion. When the information is received, it will be forwarded to the members.

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Land Use Ordinance

Chair Betkoski noted that many different individuals reviewed the ordinance and feedback was received and incorporated. Questions were raised at this meeting again regarding Conservation Commission leading the charge of this initiative and ownership of the open space. The ordinance went to a Town Meeting at which it would have passed unfortunately the call was not properly recorded as required. At this meeting it was suggested then that before the ordinance goes to another public meeting, it be brought back to Land Use Committee. Much discussion followed concerning the ordinance at the Land Use Meeting held on October 27th. Parks and Recreation felt that the ordinance was not needed. Also it was voiced by Parks and Recreation that the Conservation Commission wants too much authority. The ordinance is currently in the hands of the Board of Selectmen. Chair Betkoski stated that she is disappointed with the Attorney's handling, we are nine months into this, several meetings, and \$1,500 later and there still is no ordinance.

Vice Chair Goerig stated that it appears that there are people and commissioners that are paralyzing to the Town when trying to get things done and she finds it very frustrating. Chair Betkoski stated that the Commission has to be open to feedback and remain objective while focusing on finalizing the ordinance. The Commission understands its responsibility and recognizes the purpose of this ordinance is to protect the Town.

Chair Betkoski stated that a special meeting for the Land Use Ordinance scheduled for tonight at 7 p.m. was cancelled. Their recommendation was that the ordinance go back to the Land Ordinance go back to Land Use Committee. The ordinance was originally reviewed by R. Minnick and members who had attended the Land Use Committee. Vice Chair Goerig commented that she understands that although R. Minnick supports the creation of a Land Use Ordinance he now disagrees with the revised wording. The proposed ordinance is going back to the Attorney for rework and will be submitted. Vice Chair Goerig stated that this situation is exactly what she is referring to – frustration that this ordinance to protect the town is taking longer than necessary to pass. Commissioner Bielik feels that the ordinance is to protect the Town's liability and stated "Let's get it done". Commissioner Chellis asked if the objection is that Conservation Commission is managing this project.

Commissioner Bielik stated that Parks & Recreation representative concern was that the Land Use Ordinance being proposed did not just govern open space it included parks. If things needed to be done to the parks it would have to come to Conservation Commission first for approval. They did not like the implication. The Town owns the property – the open space and the parks. It does not belong to any individual board. Parks & Recreation if wants to do any work within the parks, how does it work currently?

Vice Chair Goerig stated that Land Use reviewed the ordinance several times. Commissioner Bielik stated that this is supposed to be a joint effort.

Riverbend Project

Chair Betkoski had a meeting with Brian Miller and Manny Gomez on October 21st. There is a \$100,000 left for the Riverbend Park area. Money has been (\$80,000) to date. A certain percentage would be administrative costs. Chair Betkoski in an email to the First Selectman asked that this project be coordinated with the Naugatuck River Greenway Project and if Conservation Commission is going to be spear heading this project or is Park and Rec.

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Vice Chair Betkoski noted that Joe Rodrigo is Chair of Parks & Rec Commission and devoted a lot of his time. Town leaders need to give clarification of ownership. Conservation Commission did a lot of the leg work.

Chair Betkoski stated that the Land Use Committee was not given direction and does not have any authority.

Nothing has been done on the Riverbend Project for 3-5 years, now it is being resurrected.

Land Use Committee Update

Discussion was held concerning the proposed ordinance.

Transportation was discussed.

Burton Road and Route 42 traffic discussion.

The train station was discussed.

The Greenway was discussed.

Growth of Beacon Falls but still keep it small.

Entrances to highway.

Emergency response discussion regarding entrances and exits to highway.

Green Living Expo Event

Saturday, November 13, 2010

Flyer distributed.

Vice Chair Goerig stated she received an email from Melissa Leonard and she will be attending next month's meeting. The Chair of the Naugatuck Land Trust will also be attending the meeting.

Grant funding was discussed. Three quotes are needed. How do you proceed to obtain grants?

Currently Brian and Manny are handling finances. Vice Chair Goerig does not want to be here six months from now discussing the same matter. Clarification for submission of grants is needed. Responsibility for land use process. The management of property, how does it work within the Town? There is question of management of the two parcels by the Conservation Commission concerning the management and planning prospective as to how to use the space.

Vice Chair Goerig stated that the Commissions working together can get the job done and direction is needed from the Board of Selectmen.

Vice Chair Goerig and Commissioner Goerig will not be attending the CACIWAC meeting on November 13th.

On November 9th, Tuesday Chair Betkoski and Vice Chair Goerig will be doing a presentation for the Lions Club.

Chair Betkoski mentioned the discussion at the Land Use Committee concerning in lieu of open space money be given to the Town.

Payment of Bills

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M. Kempa

Motion was made by Vice Chair Goerig and seconded by Commissioner Bielik to pay the bill as submitted.

Discussion: None Vote: 5 in favor Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0

Tally of Monthly Hours

Chair Belkoski asked that the members total there hours. Then an annual report will be done.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 3, 2011.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Goerig and seconded by Commissioner Chellis to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Kempa

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Clerk

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