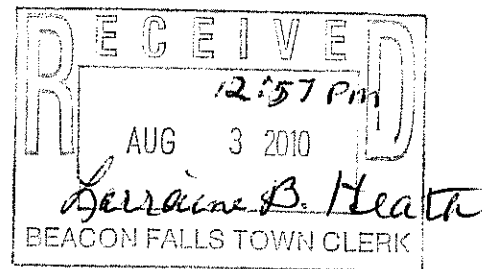


Beacon Falls Conservation Commission
10 Maple Ave
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



Meeting Minutes, July 12, 2010

Chair Diane Betkoski called the regular monthly meeting of the Beacon Falls Conservation Commission to order at 7:32 pm. Meeting took place in the Conference Room.

Present: Chair D. Betkoski, Vice Chair A. Goerig, Commissioners: J. Goerig, Chris Blelik and W. Chellis.

Absent: Commissioner Chris Yannarella

Also: Public (1), Melissa Leonard, Naugatuck Land Trust

First item, not on agenda, Chair Betkoski asked for one of the commissioners to act as secretary for the meeting. Commissioner Chellis volunteered.

Minutes of June Meeting

Motion was made by Vice Chair A Goerig and seconded Commissioner G Goerig to approve the minutes of June with the following modifications:

Outreach: Add the following to Vice Chair A Goerig proposals:

To create a log of volunteer hours.

Plan & conduct public walks in conjunction w/other events (Duck & River races)

Educating public on value of open space

Organize community "Discovery Day".

Attendance

Selectman Mike Kresnesky

Vote: 5 in favor

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

Public Comment

Chair Betkoski asked Melissa Leonard, President of the Naugatuck Land Trust to introduce herself. Leonard stated she attended to learn what we as a commission do, and how it can be applied to a proposed Naugatuck Conservation Commission. She working with Naugatuck officials on trying to create that board there.

Correspondence

Commissioner Chellis noted the following correspondence:

- Letter from Bryne & Bryne
- Recent copy of "The Habitat"
- Copy of latest Beacon Falls Planning & Zoning commission meeting minutes

Storm water Management

Chair Betkoski reports that she met with former Commissioner Mylen re: status of the storm drain marking program.

She reports that 80% of the Storm Drain markers are installed. She also reports that 3 volunteers were behind much of the work on the project. She wants to contact Lori Mylen, Tonya Guttierro & Pat O'Dell (Boy Scout Troop 104) to see if they will continue with the project until it is complete.

Outreach

Vice Chair A. Goerig is planning a Storm Drain Marker completion event, and wants to invite former Commissioner Mylen, the CT DEP, and the scouts from Troop 104.

Vice Chair A. Goerig is also trying to find a location at the Town Library for a glass display case pertaining to the Commission's activities.

Vice Chair A. Goerig also discussed the Kingsmark ERT report on Lantern Ridge. She would also like to see the Boy Scouts involved in the finishing of the markers on the site.

Re: Kingsmark's involvement, Chair Betkoski states that the Geologist needs to return to the site to complete his inspection.

Vice Chair A. Goerig discusses issue with the Commission's website.

Chair Betkoski supports Vice Chair A. Goerig suggestion for logging volunteer hours for the Commission's work. This would provide a "Human Relations" component to the commission's work load. Chair Betkoski feels this would be a good way to keep track on how the commission is meeting it's annual goals, and is also a good way to quantify the value of the work the commission provides to the town. Vice Chair A. Goerig further suggests breaking the hours down by Subcommittee. Commissioner Chellis suggested that this idea might be also be applicable to other commissions, and had some suggestions for implementing it online.

Natural Resource Inventory Program

Commissioner Chellis expressed his concern about being a "one man" subcommittee, and asked if any of the newer commissioners would like to assist on the NRI Green Map report.

Commissioners G. Goerig & C. Bielek both accepted. New subcommittee agreed to meet at a date convenient to all in the coming weeks.

Commissioners then discussed issues re: use of GPS & the placing of the boundary markers vs the use of surveyors. It was agreed that the surveyors need to complete their work first before the commission finishes the markers on Lantern Ridge.

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Land Use Committee Update

Chair Betkoski states the the Land Use Committee next meets on 7/28. That Committee needs to update the Town's plan of conservation as per state statute. Chair Betkoski shared an email discussing the Land Use Committee's goals to "preserve & enhance".

Vice Chair A. Goerig discussed the upcoming plans for a Naugatuck River Greenway. She also talked about the economic development this project could bring to the local towns.

Open Space Management

Chair Betkoski states the the Board of Selectman, currently meeting across the Hall, may be considering the proposed open space management ordinance.

Chair Betkoski also stated the need for the commission to formalize a management plan for open space parcels. As a starting point, she referenced her "pink sheet" presented at the Commissions prior meeting.

Vice Chair A. Goerig proposed creating a new Open Space management subcommittee. Commissioner Chellis the motion. Vice Chair A. Goerig seconded.

Vote: 5 In favor

Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

Subcommittee on Open Space management created. Chair Betkoski & Vice Chair A. Goerig will sit on this new committee.

Chair Betkoski reports that the Kingsmark report on Lantern Ridge is expected to be completed in August. The commission is weighing the timing of the report on whether or not to revisit the request for an ERT.

Chair Betkoski reports she recently visited Riverbend Park. She noted a few of the items that still need work on site. Commissioner G. Goerig also reported on his recent visit to the park, commenting on the fish, deer, and birds he observed.

Chair Betkoski mentioned upcoming CACIWAC meeting November 13. Vice Chair Goerig to attend.

Commissioner Goerig made passing mention of an open space article in Audobon publication.

Payment of Bills

No bills to present due to absence of M. Kempa

Group Photo

Postponed.

Motion was made by Vice Chair A. Goerig and seconded by Commissioner G. Goerig to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner William Chellis, Acting Secretary

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