

City of Torrington
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2010

1. Call to Order: 6:19 pm in City Hall, Land Use Office, 59 Field Street, Torrington, CT.
2. Roll Call & Announcements:
 - a. Attending tonight's meeting are C. Altman, B. Reardon, L. Beyus & B. Klug. Also attending staff person K. Barbieri
3. Minutes for Approval:
 - a. 1/12/10: Motion to APPROVE by L. Beyus. 2nd by B. Reardon. Vote: all C. Altman abstain
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Report: K. Barbieri reviewed the Treasurer's report that M. Meyer had completed. Neither account had any activity. Ending balances were: Conservation Commission \$1439.94 and Open Space account \$44,966.79.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Review/finalize Commission Goals for upcoming year – item tabled until next meeting
 - b. Discussion of letter to Finance Board: The original letter we had modified was too lengthy. At the last meeting it was decided that Linda and Kim should review it and cut it down to size – no more than two pages. The team ended up breaking the original letter into 4 documents – 1-the letter to the board, 2-Descriptions of different types of open space, 3-Tools of preservation and 4-a short listing of what other towns are doing. Some edits were reviewed. Discussion centered on if we should ask for a line item amount to be placed in the Open Space account. Members acknowledged it might not go this year but we need to start a dialog about this topic. It was thought that K. Barbieri should talk to the comptroller to discuss an amount that wouldn't seem too unrealistic. A Motion was made to APPROVE the letter with changes discussed provided KB discuss line item amount with Comptroller made by B. Klug. 2nd by C. Altman Vote: all.
 - c. Leoni property brochure/fund-raising – the brochures were printed and the final document was reviewed by the members. KB is to work with K. Fitzgerald on the final mailing.
 - d. Update on fall energy forum – on hold until after Earth Day. At that time NCD will be taking the lead role in the planning of the event. An e-mail from the mayor was reviewed regarding a solar-collector. That information will be passed on.
6. New Business:
 - a. Discussion events schedule and plan for connecting with public
 - i. Events schedule: word will get out by posting on the website and press releases
 - ii. A conservation column in the newspaper was not picked up by the Register but the Waterbury Republican has shown interest. They require a writing sample from anyone who may be writing fro the column. Four individuals were interested: L. Beyus, C. Altman, B. Reardon and K. Barbieri. If all four wrote and there was one column a month each would only be responsible for 3 500-essays. Everyone agreed it was something they could commit to. Possible topics were discussed for the column: natural turf management, Canadian lawn pesticide ban, local hiking, composting, and pruning, moss cultivation, no till gardening, yellow jacket removal, farm preservation, local wildlife (beaver/bear etc), stormwater (LID) and others.

7. Staff Report:

a. Open Discussion - none

8. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by C. Altman, 2nd by B. Klug Vote all at 7:24 pm.

Kimberly H. Barbieri, CZ&WEO
Staff to Conservation Commission

cc: P/Z, IWC, City Clerk, Mayor's Office