



City of Torrington
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING Minutes
Thursday, November 12, 2015 @6:30pm
Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order: 6:30pm, Land Use Office, Room 324,140 Main Street, Torrington, CT.
2. Roll Call & Announcements: Members Present: Chris Altman, Chris Rabago, John Czapor, Jim Fedorich & staff Rista Malanca
3. New Business:
 - a. 2016 Regular Meeting dates – Ms. Malanca presented a 2016 meeting schedule with regular meetings on the 2nd Thursday of every month the following exceptions: No Meeting in February or July and August’s meeting held on the first Tuesday of the month to avoid any conflicts with Main Street Market Place. Earth Day Clean up scheduled for April 23rd, Naugatuck River Clean Up scheduled for June 4th and Clean Up the World Day scheduled for September 17th.

Motion made by Mr. Czapor seconded by Mr. Fedorich it was voted to APPROVE the 2016 meeting schedule as presented.

- b. Fit Together – Possible Bicyclist advocate citizens group – Ms. Malanca informed the Commission that the NW CT YMCA Fit Together is interested in organizing a bicyclist advocate group to help identify possible bike routes, bike rack locations etc. The Commission fully supported these efforts and suggested Fit Together contact Biker’s Edge to get their input.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Grove Street Open Space Parcel discussion – The Commission discussed the Site Visit performed on October 8, 2015. The Commission agrees that this is a nice parcel and should be kept in a somewhat natural state, but felt that adding non-paved trails and possibly a pedestrian bridge connecting this parcel to Jiggs Donahue Park would encourage positive behaviors and help reduce the amount of dumping that is currently occurring. Maintaining this parcel will also help reduce the amount of invasive plants, there is currently Japanese Knot Weed taking over a portion of this parcel.
 - b. Litter Prevention Program – The Commission would like to kick off their litter prevention campaign at Earth Day Clean up next year. They would be interested in a voluntary “adopt a highway” type program where individuals or businesses take responsibility of

section of road and pick up trash regularly. They are also interested in using the work the intern did this summer. The Commission will discuss the detail of this campaign in the upcoming meetings to prepare for Earth Day.

- c. 2013 Rec Trails Grant Update – Buttrick Road grading and drainage repair is underway and should be completed by the end of the month.
- d. America the Beautiful Grant Update – the Forester has started work and is on task to be completed by the December 31st deadline.

Mr. Fedorich asked about setting up a fundraising account to accept donations to clean out Besse Pond. He has parties interested in making a donation to this cause. Ms. Malanca will talk with the City's Mayor and Finance Department to see what needs to be done to make this happen.

5. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mr. Fedorich seconded by Mr. Czapor it was voted to adjourn at 7:35

Rista Malanca, CZ&WEO
Staff to Conservation Commission
Cc: City Clerk, Mayor's Office