

CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2009

1. **Call to Order:** 6:04pm in Land Use Office, Torrington City Hall, 59 Field Street, Torrington, CT.
2. **Roll Call & Announcements:**
 - a. Roll Call: C. Altman, M. Meyer, L. Tipaldi & B. Klug. Also attending were K. Barbieri, staff and Brian Reardon.
3. **Minutes for Approval:**
 - a. 2/10/09: Motion to APPROVE by M. Meyer. 2nd by B. Klug. Unanimously passed.
4. **Treasurer's Report:**
 - a. Report: Open Space account \$43,984.97
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Open Space Plan Update** – K. Barbieri reviewed mapping of existing open space inventory. She and Dave Scherf have been going through each parcel one by one to assure a more accurate base data than we've had in the past. New reviewed data sets:
 - i. Completed: Land Trust Properties, City Parks, Water Company properties and a rough draft of existing trails
 - ii. In Process: State land, City owned properties (separated by use) and City conservation easements

The next & final data set to be completed is privately owned open space. When completed the real work for the Commission will begin to analyze the information and create a plan that supports our initial goals set last year. This will also include land acquisition priority methods and plan.
 - b. **America the Beautiful Grant Program Award** – Urban Tree Poster Update – K. Barbieri showed the members the final revised poster document and gained approval to continue with printing. When final posters are received groups will be identified to do presentations of the information to local businesses and groups.
 - c. **CT Open Space Grant** - Leoni Property Update – Barring any new budgetary 'finds' it appears that the acquisition of the Leoni property has died through lack of funding.
 - d. **2009 Earth Day Planning** – Earth Day clean up is set for Saturday April 25 at Coe Park. Much of the planning is taking care of itself as donating companies are now contacting us. Giordano signs are donating the changes to the existing road signs. Specific duties will be designated during the April 14th meeting. L. Tipaldi shared ideas for fund raising and/or 'awards' – she showed a brochure of Bloomsberry Chocolate' and other green networking sites with ideas. CTGreenScene has monthly meetings that need a home that we could sponsor with some of our green energy producers. March 21st is a Clean Energy Expo in MA and one in Portland March 21st.
 - e. **Naugatuck River Informational Meeting** – Held on February 18 – B. Reardon attended and thought for the terrible weather the meeting was well attended and very informative. The big question was 'what happens next?' K. Barbieri will forward once anything becomes available.
 - f. **PoCD Meeting held February 23** – L. Tipaldi attended and thought it too was very well done and well attended. It was exciting to hear so many positive ideas and common goals spoken in a public meeting. As the PoCD continues further public meetings will be held. Our Open Space Planning will be presented at one of the meetings.

- g. **CT Conference on Natural Resources** - K. Barbieri presented the 'Try Torrington' poster that she presented at the UCONN Natural Resources Conference to draw attention to Torrington to be used by individuals for scientific research. The poster and information were very positively received by the conference attendees.
- h. **Discuss Church Street Dam** – Ed Fabbri has been looking for a turbine to fit the current dam and sluiceway configuration will little luck thus far. K. Barbieri will keep up with the topic and inform the Commission on any further developments.

6. New Business:

- a. **Illegal Dumping Article Discussion** – The Reading, Pennsylvania police department received a grant to install portable infrared cameras to identify illegal dumpers within their communities. This method was discussed and the Commission agreed to look into this further as a way to eliminate dumping especially if the Public Works Department is forced to suspend bulky pick up.

7. Staff Report/Open Discussion:

- a. none

- 8. **Adjournment:** 7:52 Motion to Adjourn made by B. Klug. Second by M. Meyer. Vote passed unanimously.

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

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