



City of Torrington
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 14, 2015
Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order: 6:30pm, Land Use Office, Room 324,140 Main Street, Torrington, CT.

2. Roll Call & Announcements:

Members: Chris Altman, Brian Reardon, John Czapor, Jim Fedorich & staff Rista Malanca
Others Present: Bill Klug and Chris Rabago

3. Minutes for Approval:

a. March 12, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Motion made by Mr. Fedorich, seconded by Mr. Czapor to APPROVE the minutes as written.
Vote Unanimous

4. Treasurer's Report:

a. Open Space Fund - Ms. Malanca stated that there is currently \$41,272.02 in this fund. It appears that the 2013 Trails Rec Grant proposal to acquire the parcel behind the former Kmart Plaza, now owned by Pan Am, for the purposes of extending the City's trail network will be approved. Once this is approved, the City will be required to provide 20 % matching funds. The Commission agreed that this would be a valuable parcel to own and a good use of a portion of these funds. Ms. Malanca stated that once the grant is finalized and the final dollar amount is known she will bring it to the Commission for approval.

b. Operating Budget Update - This line item currently has some money in it, there were no additional funds added to this account for FY 14/15. Ms. Malanca stated she has spoken with the Mayor regarding the use of these funds, currently there are not funds proposed for this line item for FY 15/16, but the Mayor would like to reinstate putting funds into this account either this year or next year if possible. Chairman Altman informed the Commission that these funds were set aside to help the Conservation Commission manage their property. In the past these funds were used to take down dangerous trees and to remove trees that have fallen onto streets or private property from open space land.

5. New Business:

a. 2015 CT Greenways Day - CT Greenways Day in June 5th at 10am in the Auditorium at UCONN Torrington. This year the Torrington Trails Network will be receiving the Volunteer Organization of the year award. After the award ceremony there will be a hike around the John Brown Trail.

- b. Resignation/appointment of Commissioners – Diane Carroll has resigned, Dan McGuinness has volunteered to fill this vacancy. This request has been sent to the City Council for approval.

Bill Klug has expressed an interest in taking over Butch Klug's position. Ms. Malanca stated that once Butch sends in a resignation letter and a letter of interest from Bill, she will send a request to the City Council to appoint Bill Klug.

Chris Rabago is also interested in a seat on the Commission. There is currently a vacancy that has not been filled for some time. Ms. Malanca requested that Mr. Rabago submit a letter of interest to be on the Commission and she would send this appointment to the City Council for approval as well.

- c. 2015 Naugatuck River Clean Up – Mr. Fedorich confirmed that Trout Unlimited is providing gloves, bags and food. Ms. Malanca stated that there are 3 cases of water left over from Earth Day Clean Up that could be used. Ms. Malanca will not be able to attend this Clean Up; however several other members of the Commission along with Mr. Klug and Mr. Rabago said they would be able to attend. The dumpster has been ordered and will be at the Sullivan Senior Center in the same place it was last year. Mr. Fedorich inquired as to whether or not the City's Public Works department would be able to assist in removing some of the buried shopping carts in the River, similar to what they did several years ago, Ms. Malanca will look in to it.
- d. Anti- Litter Campaign – Ms. Malanca said that she had been assigned a high school intern to work with the Commission to help set up an anti - litter campaign. The Commission is looking forward to working with the intern and feels this is a much needed campaign.
- e. 2015 Clean Up the World Day – Ms. Malanca informed the Commission that she had talked with Keith Mutch from Torrington Family Kempo regarding this year's Clean Up the World Day. Mr. Mutch is interested in enhancing this event so that it is more than just a Clean-Up but also help bring awareness to the amount of trash that is in Torrington. Ms. Malanca suggested that this could be the launch to the Anti-Litter Campaign? The Commission agreed and suggested that this be a topic of discussion at the next meeting and ask Mr. Mutch to attend to work collaboratively on the details of this event.

6. Old Business:

- a. Update on CC Open Space inventory
 - i. Set up schedule of site visits - The Commission wants to begin these walks, Ms. Malanca and Chairman Altman will come up with a schedule and distribute at the next meeting
- b. Overview of 2015 Earth Day Clean up – This was a very successful event, nearly 100 volunteers filled a 30 yard dumpster and reported that there was still a significant amount of trash they either could reach or ran out of time.

7. Committee or Board updates:

- a. Torrington Trails Network

- i. 2013 Trail Rec Grant – This is a very long process, but it appears the grant contracts me be issued within the next few weeks. Ms. Malanca will continue to update the Commission as she receives information.
 - ii. 2015 Trail Rec Grant – the City’s and the Torrington Trails Network are jointly applying for the next round of trail funding. The proposal will be to construct the Naugatuck River Greenway from Franklin Street to Bouge Road Bridge. The grant funds would pay for a Class A survey for this area, construction drawings and construction of this trail along the flood control levee and existing sidewalks.
- b. Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee

8. Open Discussion/Public Comment:

Mr. Fedorich asked about remediation of Besse Pond. The Commission would like to make remediation of this Pond a priority and would like to do some research to find out if there is any funding available for this remediation. The Commission would like this to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

9. Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Czapor seconded by Ms. Altman to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:58. Vote Unanimous.

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