

CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2010

1. Call to Order: 6:10pm in City Hall, Land Use Office, 59 Field Street, Torrington, CT.
2. Roll Call & Announcements:
 - a. In attendance was K. Fitzgerald, D. Waugh, B. Reardon, M. Meyer, B. Klug, C. Altman, L. Beyus and staff person K. Barbieri.
3. Minutes for Approval:
 - a. 2/8/10: motion to APPROVE made by B. Reardon. 2nd by B. Klug vote passed unanimously.
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. M. Meyer reviewed the Treasurer's report. 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: Discussion regarding the spreadsheet that itemized the Commission's goals stemming from the Plan of Conservation & Development. Motion to APPROVE the Goals B. Reardon, 2nd by K. Fitzgerald. Vote passed unanimously.
 - b. Discussion of letter to finance board: K. Fitzgerald further modified the letters to the Board of Finance to streamline the information. He is committed to working on all the pieces to create a document 5 pages or less with appendices to give the BoF and will bring updated letters to the next meeting. Discussion followed regarding the current state of the finance for the City and State and how that impacts our information.
 - c. Update Leoni property brochure/fund-raising and option: K. Barbieri reviewed the current Letter of Intent status – it needs to be signed by the sellers prior to us mailing out the donation forms. The Commission also reviewed possible issues like: back taxes, indemnity clause, right of first refusal and earnest \$. K. Fitzgerald offered to meet with the seller to finalize language on the letter of intent to move the process along. KF will be available for the meeting after 3/24/10.
 - d. Discussion events schedule and plan for connecting with public: The next walk is Saturday 3/20. K. Barbieri discussed the lack of participation in the first walk and noted that the Charlene Besse Park is actually being used for storing road millings, fill material and scrap metal posts with concrete bases. KB noted that the CC has been fully functional now for some years and it is time to her to have a more support role in the Commission instead of a leadership role. She explained that it was time for members to take control of Earth Day, walks, river clean ups etc. The members responded well and started dividing up the work for the upcoming events. C. Altman and B. Reardon will head the 3/20 walk on the Sue Grossman Greenway. There was interest to make sure our events were posted on the RC community events section and on the greenway. KB will still have an active role in helping organize the events and keep postings up to date on the website.
6. New Business:
 - a. L. Beyus updated everyone on the Northwest Conservation District's meeting on Energy Task Forces. They are encouraging Torrington to create a Task Force. People from various neighboring towns were at the meeting representing their town's ETF. In general the task forces educate the public about energy options, encourage buying into green energy, do energy audits for public facilities and they try and get public officials on board with green energy initiatives.

There were 3 or 4 presenters at the fair that debunked problems and concerns. Cornwall's ETF was highlighted as they are extremely active and have started energy project partnerships with their local schools.

- b. C. Altman, L. Beyus and B. Reardon brought in their writing samples to submit to the Waterbury Rep. To see if they would be willing to have a monthly column on conservation topics. KB will get them all in writing and forward to the paper when completed.

7. Staff Report:

- a. Open Discussion

8. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn C. Altman, 2nd by D. Waugh. Passed unanimously at 7:40.

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

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