



CITY OF TORRINGTON

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 9, 2013

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

Attending the meeting area members Chris Altman, Tara Jo Holmberg, Brian Reardon, Gary Eucalitto, Butch Klug, Ashley Ross & staff Kim Barbieri
Guests attending: Ann and Tom Bott, Richard Weigold and Michael Venghaus
3. Guest Discussion:

Community Garden discussion with guests Ann and Tom Bott from the *Torrington Community Gardens* and, Richard Weigold and Michael Venghaus from *Northwest Sobriety* one of the largest sober house organizations in Torrington. The Conservation Commission wanted to introduce these two groups for a potential opportunity to create a community garden and/or food forest on the *Northwest Sobriety* property on King Street directly opposite *Friendly Hand's Food Bank*.

The Botts offered some advice on how to start a community garden and engage the local community making sure there was interest and support from the neighborhood. The group they manage would not be interested in managing this location so a new group would have to be developed. Discussion followed on liability, water access, garden location and size and garden maintenance. It seemed the best match would be for Northwest Sobriety to partner with the Conservation Commission to hold neighborhood interest meetings this summer/fall to determine interest for a garden next year.
4. Minutes for Approval:

Minutes from the 4/4/13 meeting: Motion to Approve made by TJ Holmberg, Second by G. Eucalitto. Passed unanimously.
5. Treasurer's Report:

There have been no changes to the Open Space or Conservation Commission accounts. A new account was formed to hold donations the Commission has received in support of Earth Day and the Food Forest projects.
6. Old Business:
 - a. **Earth Day** recap: On April 21 we had what was clearly the most successful Earth Day Cleanup thus far with a conservative 150 people participating. Thank-you's went out to all businesses that donated services or materials and a special commendation went out to *Torrington Family Kempo Martial Arts Studio* for their great turn out and interest in community service.
 - b. **Lippincott Property:** A meeting was held May 8th and we voted unanimously to move forward with the agreement to accept the land for open space and preservation. K Barbieri will be meeting on May 13th with Mr. Lippincott and Corp Counsel Ray Rigat to begin working on the language for the agreement.
 - c. CC Open Space inventory and update: tabled
 - d. Urban Farming – review draft regs: tabled
 - e. **Food Forest UCONN Project:** The UCONN students along with their professor, Councilwoman Elinor Carbone and K. Barbieri met on site Saturday May 4 and planted 9 fruit trees, 5 raspberry bushes and 150 strawberry plants at the City's newest Food Forest. A food forest provides healthy fresh fruit to those who need it for the price of their labor picking the fruit themselves. The University sees this as a great asset for

their students who often live on the ramen noodle diet to make it through college. All plants and materials were donated, including approximately 2 yards of topsoil from Harwinton Paving who happened to be going by and asked what we were doing.

7. New Business:

- a. Torrington Trails – Plant sale scheduled for May 11 at the Torrington Public Library parking lot.
- b. LID Parking Lot – CT DEEP is funding a new LID parking lot for the City through the NW Conservation District. The lot will be located at the vacant parcel of land on the corner of Route 4 and Main Street.
- c. June meeting field trip to the WPCA – make sure to attend since Ray is staying late to lead us on the tour. Meet on site at 6:00.

8. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by TJ Holmberg. Second by A Ross. Motion passed unanimously at 8:05pm

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

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