



CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 12, 2013

1. Call to Order: 6:30pm, Council Chambers 2nd Floor, 140 Main Street, Torrington, CT.
2. Roll Call & Announcements:
Members: Chris Altman, Tara Jo Holmberg, Butch Klug, Ashley Ross, Stephen Michna, staff Kim Barbieri and guest Reese Piper.
3. Minutes for Approval:
Motion to approve the 5/9/13 minutes made by TJ Holmberg and seconded by A Ross. Vote passed unanimously.
4. Treasurer's Report:
K Barbieri noted there was no movement or change in our accounts. We should have the up to date accounts by the November meeting.
5. New Business:
 - a. Solarize Program Presentation: Erin Sullivan esullivan@smartpower.org representing SmartPower and the program Solarize Connecticut gave a presentation outlining the program. It is a program that can make solar energy more cost friendly for residential applications by using the town government leverage to collect a pool of residential properties to increase cost savings. The more people that sign up to have the solar system installed the greater the savings – up to 20%. There is no financial investment from the city and is run mainly by volunteers with support from SmartPower. The funding from this program comes from the green energy check off from current power bills.
The Commission was very supportive of the program and interested in participating. The deadline for sign up was the following day with the program to start within 3 weeks. K Barbieri was concerned over the short preparation time to get a volunteer group together and doing the majority of the work with an interim mayor and through an election cycle. The Commission asked that K Barbieri try and contact the Mayor to see he thoughts on starting the program. If it is determined that this would not be a good time to start we would want to be the first contacted for the next series starting in winter.
 - b. Rails/Trails Planning:
 - i. Justin Lentz, the Land Use Offices' intern completed a review of the existing rail line that cuts through Torrington from Winsted at the Sue Grossman Still River Greenway south, through town, to Route 118 in Litchfield. Justin did an excellent job and photo documented the entire length of the line and wrote an accompanying text outlining the opportunities and concerns that could be experienced while turning the abandoned line into a greenway trail. Justin is a senior at Philadelphia University in Landscape Architecture this year. His plan was presented at the September meeting of the LHCEO and endorsed for support to acquire an ERT assessment. DEEP Trails has reviewed the preliminary plan and is very excited to see the final package as it works towards being designated as a plausible greenway location.
 - ii. The Red Mountain Trail remains a plausible acquisition. K. Barbieri filled the Commission in on further details.
6. Old Business:
 - a. CC Open Space inventory and update: Tabled

- b. Urban Farming – Discussion followed about the latest press that has been received about chickens in urban areas. Due to the current climate in town the Commission felt it best if we left this topic alone for now with hopes of resurrecting it for the future.
- c. LID Parking Lot Update – Sean Hayden and the NWCD are moving forward with the bidding/construction of the parking lot. Hopefully it will be completed by winter.
- d. July meeting field trip to the WPCA recap – Everyone who went had a great time learning about the sewage treatment facility. Those who couldn't make it want another tour. K Barbieri said that Ray Drew, the WPCA Administrator, said he'd be glad to take additional tours anytime. Kim will talk to Ray about setting up another tour.
- e. Open Discussion - none

7. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55. Motion made by S Michna, 2nd by TJ Holmberg. Passed unanimously.

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

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