



**CITY OF TORRINGTON**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, April 4, 2013**

1. Call to Order: 6:40pm, Land Use Office, Room 324, 140 Main Street, Torrington, CT.
2. Roll Call & Announcements:  
Chris Altman, Tara Jo Holmberg, Brian Reardon, Diane Carroll, Butch Klug & staff Kim Barbieri  
Also attending were Ashley Ross, Mark Luzzi, Justin Clark and Thomas Binghi.
3. Minutes for Approval:  
3/7/13: Motion to APPROVE B. Klug, 2<sup>nd</sup> TJ Holmberg. Passed unanimously.
4. Treasurer's Report:  
Report: No change.
5. Old Business:
  - a. **Jacob Strong House assessment update:** Kim reviewed with the Commission the time/date information for the public presentation of the assessment. Architect, Mark Thaler will be presenting his findings on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the City Hall Auditorium. All members were encouraged to attend.
  - b. **CC Open Space inventory and update:** Chris reported that she and Brian Reardon reviewed all known conservation easement areas to determine which areas were publically accessible and which were not. Most easements limited access to twice a year for verifying site conditions. Kim & Chris will meet to review the general open space parcels and begin inputting all the property information into an excel spreadsheet.
  - c. **Community Gardens:** Kim shared with the Commission an article that she read about food forests – the planting of fruiting trees and plants that would be available for the public to use as needed. Discussion followed regarding where something like that could be created.
  - d. **Urban Farming:** Tara Jo and Kim didn't have time to work on the draft regulation and the item was tabled until the May meeting.
  - e. **Greenbriar Open Space – ACE required maintenance plan – DRAFT:** The draft maintenance plan was reviewed. A few changes were initiated such as changing a public hearing about the open space use to a charette involving the neighbors to help determine the open space use and including snowshoeing as an allowed use.
  - f. **Trails Grant Update:** The Recreational Trails Grant was completed by Torrington Trails members Kathy Ross and Mark Linehan along with assistance from Kim and was received by the CT DEEP on Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup>. Details of the application were reviewed and discussed.
6. New Business:
  - a. Torrington Trails: summarized under 5f.
  - b. **Selection of final rain barrel winners:** Fifty rain barrel winners and 20 compost bin winners were selected from last falls' entries.
  - c. **Open Discussion:** Ashley Ross was introduced. She was attending the meeting to determine if she would like to fill the vacancy on the Commission – she did and will meet with Kim after the meeting to go over the 'next steps'.  
Mark Luzzi, Justin Clark and Thomas Binghi introduced themselves and described their current project. They attend UCONN Torrington and are interested in studying local land use laws and actions used to protect land or impact the community in a positive manner. The commission questioned the students on the goals of the project

and thought they could pursue creating a food forest - similar to those discussed earlier in the meeting. Locations, funding opportunities/gifts etc. were discussed. Kim stated she would contact the Community Gardens Group to see what thoughts they had. Tara Jo was to speak with the NW Conservation District to see what role they would like to play.

The Commission requested that Kim schedule a time for a tour of the sewage treatment plant and especially the FOG system to see what advances Torrington is taking in the management of our waste.

Kim reviewed the upcoming **Earth Day Clean Up** event: **Saturday, April 20 at the Armory Building from 9:00 am until noon.** Things needed still: an additional man and a truck for pickups; extra bags, extra gloves. New signs are needed since we've changed locations. Motion made by Tara Jo to approve the expenditure of \$180 for new Earth Day Clean Up signs. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane, Vote passed unanimously.

7. Adjournment: 8:10 Motion to adjourn made by Diane Carroll/ 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christine Altman. Vote passed unanimously.

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

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