



CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2011

1. Call to Order: 6:10pm in City Hall, Land Use Office, 140 Main Street, Torrington, CT by staff person Kim Barbieri since no office holders were present.
2. Roll Call & Announcements:
 - i. In attendance was Gary Eucalitto, Chris Altman, Linda Beyus, Brian Reardon & Butch Klug as well as staff Kim Barbieri and guest Kevin Litten
3. Minutes for Approval:
 - a. none
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - i. K. Barbieri presented the report on available funds: The Open Space Fund has a beginning and ending total of \$44,966.79. The Leoni Property Acquisition Fund is back down to \$zero with all funds donated being returned. The Conservation Commission account has a balance of \$.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Conservation topics with newspaper: Commission member B. Reardon is still very interested in pursuing an outreach project with a newspaper. He has a short series of articles on organic lawn care that could be published during suitable times of the year. C. Altman had an article written regarding special backyard gardening plants. L. Beyus offered to review and edit all articles. The end goal was decided to share all writing samples via e-mail and create a package for writing and ideas for a paper to review and hopefully accept. Kevin Litten from the Waterbury Republican was in attendance and gave his suggestions for making the project work.
 - b. Further discussion followed regarding Brian's topic of organic lawn care and it was suggested by G. Eucalitto that we pursue an ordinance to place a restriction on the use of non-organic fertilizers, at a minimum on public property or consider doing it citywide. K. Barbieri was asked to research what other towns in the area have done and report back.
 - c. The Commission was also interested in looking into sponsoring classes on organic lawn care and it was suggested that we contact Lowe's to see if they would partner with the Conservation Commission on a project like that.
6. New Business:
 - a. Introduction of new members – Gary Eucalitto was introduced to the other members.
 - b. Vote for new Chairman, Vice-Chair and Secretary – a new slate of officers was discussed with Chris Altman as Chair, Brian Reardon as Vice-Chair and Linda Beyus as Secretary. A MOTION to approve the slate as presented was offered by Gary Eucalitto. 2nd by Butch Klug. The vote passed unanimously.
 - c. Goals for the 2011 – As discussed the following is a list of the Commission's Goals:
 - i. Pursuing grants for greenways and open space, G. Eucalitto will follow up with Lieberman's Office to see if there are any opportunities out there for us to take advantage of
 - ii. Creating a newspaper link with the Commission to promote green living, connecting with nature and encouraging an active lifestyle.

- iii. Provide the City Council with language for an ordinance on organic lawn care.
 - iv. Create a fund-raising calendar for sale starting in July highlighting photographs of Torrington's natural or historic side. The photographs would be Land Use Office or Commission generated the first year and would solicit photo entries for the second year to engage the public in our goals.
 - v. Sponsor our 2 regular clean ups.
- d. Earth Day Clean Up – April 30 – a new flyer has been posted on the website and will distribute the closer we get to the clean up date.
 - e. Naugatuck River Clean Up – June 4 - a new flyer has been posted on the website and will distribute the closer we get to the clean up date.
7. Staff Report:
- a. New Zoning Regulations – K. Barbieri reviewed the latest changes to the Zoning Regulations regarding Low Impact Development issues such as integrated parking lot islands and water quality basins; reduced parking requirements; stormwater management plans etc.
 - b. Torrington Trails Network – 30 people attended the first meeting. The second meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 25 at 5:00 in the Council Chambers. Laurie Giannotti of the Greenways Section of the DEP will be addressing the group.
 - c. Fundraising Calendar – discussed under 'Goals'
 - d. New Earth Day & River Clean Up Signs – new signs will be needed this year. K. Barbieri is requesting costs from two local sign makers for the updated signs.
 - e. Open Discussion – G. Eucalitto is concerned about the ridgelines in Torrington and would like to pursue greater control of developers over the tree cover on ridgelines. K. Barbieri was asked to research any other towns that may have ridgeline protection regulations and bring back to the group. His concerns stemmed mainly from home sites that are now clearly visible from Highland Avenue that cut harshly into the ridgeline views.
8. Adjournment: 7:25 pm MOTION to adjourn L. Beyus. 2nd by G. Eucalitto. Vote unanimous.

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

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