



City of Torrington
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, November 15, 2012

1. Call to Order: 6:07pm, Land Use Office, Room 324, 140 Main Street, Torrington, CT.
2. Roll Call & Announcements:
 - a. Tara Jo Holmberg, Butch Klug, Stephen Michna, Brian Reardon, Diane Carol, Christine Altman and staff Kim Barbieri.
3. Minutes for Approval:
 - a. 10/11/12 - tabled
4. Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Giveaway Raffle

Last night at the Torrington Conservation Commission meeting 32 tickets were drawn for 16 free 40 gallon rain barrels and 16 free compost bins. The Commission received 111 entries for the rain barrel drawing and 87 entries for the compost bin drawing. Residents of Torrington were encouraged to enter both drawings.

The rain barrels were acquired using EPA 319 Nonpoint Source Program grant funds through the CT DEEP Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse. The compost bins were donated by the City of Torrington.

Three lucky contestants one a rain barrel and a compost bin! All winners will be notified by phone and mailed a ticket to be used for pick up. All barrels and bins will be handed out on Thursday, November 29 from 3:00-5:00 pm at the Armory gym. Winners must bring their tickets to claim their prize.

The interest in this giveaway and with reusing rainwater and yard waste was so great; the Conservation Commission will be holding another drawing in the springtime at the Earth Day clean up. Anyone who entered this drawing and did not win will have their entry automatically placed in the spring 2013 drawing.
5. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. No change
6. Old Business:
 - a. Lippincott Property – Jacob Strong House: The contract for hiring Mark Thaler was approved by City Council, the contract is signed and Mark will be starting shortly on the assessment.
 - b. CC Open Space inventory – Christine and Brian will make first attempts to write down some ideas on how the Commission should manage and properties they take in. Kim is to e-mail them a list of land we currently have.
 - c. Oil leak in Naugatuck Status – A plan has been devised for the remediation of the spill site – they will be coming to the IWC for permitting.
 - d. Community Gardens - Barry McLeod came to speak on behalf of the local Community Gardens group. The group currently is small and is run mainly by Tom and Ann Botts. The Botts are both retired and winter in the south and are hopeful the Conservation Commission will be able to help them infuse new people and energy into the group. They currently have 2 locations: 1 behind Primetime House on Main Street and the other on University Drive across from the UCONN Campus. Plots are 10' x 20' and rent for \$20/year. UCONN offers support to the gardeners and offers greenhouse space for seeding starts. The Community Gardens would like to see a new location in the south Torrington neighborhoods and perhaps another at the projects on Highland

Avenue. They had approached the management at the projects about a new location but were turned away. The greatest help the CC could give them would be advertising the locations and getting people involved. Mr. McLeod left information for the commission members to review.

e. Urban Farming – Tara Jo reviewed the background information that she and Kim had found thus far. She reviewed her ideas thus far and outlined some of our challenges for creating a useful ‘urban farming’ regulation. Since there is such overlap it was determined it would be best to include all animal regulations together – including horses and kennels.

7. New Business:

a. Open Discussion – none

8. Adjournment:

7:01 motion made to adjourn by Diane, 2nd by Tara Jo – Passed unanimously.

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

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