

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2010**

1. Call to Order – In lieu of a quorum, an information meeting commenced at 7:08 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were: Lois Query (Vice-Chair), Don DiGenova (Secretary), Richard Symonds. Absent were: Phil Moreschi (Chair), Cynthia MacDonald and Eugene Koss.

Agenda additions: Ms. Query added Mr. Moreschi’s information on the Bertha Place property and an executive discussion regarding land acquisition; Mr. Symonds added a discussion of the Conservation Commission’s Annual Report; Mr. DiGenova added a discussion on the budget.

2. Public Comments

- a. Comments from the public – 2 minutes - None

- b. Boy Scouts

- Troop 2, Tolland – invasive plants – 5 minutes - None
- Troop 61, Mansfield – bluebird project - None

3. Approval of Minutes – July 8, 2010 - None

4. Committee Reports

- a. Status of Sage Meadow Plan and unfinished Management Plans – 15 minutes

Mr. Symonds explained that on July 8, 2010 that the Sage Meadow plan was approved subject to the map replacement, attachments and changes to be made by Mr. Pagini. Mr. Pagini added a map on page 2 of the plan and on page 6 made a modification to the map. Lastly, Mr. Pagini removed the parking area and looped the trail on the last page.

When Mr. Symonds met with Mr. Pagini, Mr. Symonds learned that Joshua’s Trust does not have an approval process for easement properties but will endorse it. This will then allow the Plan to go to Council for adoption.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the attachment (which generalized previously scheduled activities) and maps were required for approval. The decision was made to send it to Council with the attachment and to clarify the priority key. The members present believed all issues have been addressed and it was noted that Mr. Hankinson had been alerted that the property is ready.

In regards to the Campbell property, Ms. Query explained that Ms. Farmer stated that since a small portion of the property is being hayed that this should be added as a bullet to the plan. The plan would then have to go back to the Conservation Commission for approval. Ms. Query distributed the memo from Ms. Farmer re: Campbell’s Peaceful Valley Conservation Area to the members. Mr. DiGenova expressed concern over the term “housing” and would like to see it replaced with “grazing”. Mr. Symonds explained that there is an existing structure so the “housing” should be acceptable but

that this would need to go to Commission.

b. Tolland Conservation Corps – 15 minutes

Ms. Query had Mr. Hankinson's report. She explained that it stated that the painting and blazing on all trails (with the exception of Saffron) would be completed by the end of August. Further, Ms. Farmer has the details of expenses incurred between April and August of this year. The projected expenses for Fall 2010 will be ready and presented at the September Conservation Commission meeting.

c. Willimantic River Alliance – update – 2 minutes None

d. Invasive Species Committee Report – 15 minutes None

4. Old Business

- Information on the Bertha Place property

Ms. Query read a message from Mr. Moreschi regarding Bertha Place and discussed accessing state property.

- Clearing of dam on Weigold property

Mr. Symonds, Mr. Moreschi, Mr. Lowrey and Mr. Rabino met with the scout and his father. The area may be cleared as discussed; everything decided upon was non-wetland property. Mr. Symonds offered to bring his chipper to assist with the clearing.

- Metcalf Road improvements – None

- Budget

A general discussion on the budget took place the members present came to the consensus that a priority should be property signage.

6. New Business - None

7. Adjournment

Consensus was made to adjourn the information meeting, pay the clerk and to go into executive discussion at 8:00 p.m. This discussion on land purchase ended at 8:25 p.m. and the members came out of executive discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk