

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2009**

1. Call to Order

A. Attendance - Seat alternate member, if necessary. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were: Phil Moreschi (Chair), Lois Query (Vice-Chair) and Richard Symonds. Andrew Holl arrived at 7:11 p.m. and Eugene Koss arrived at 7:30 p.m. Others present were: Linda Farmer, Director of Planning and Community Development and Ken Hankinson, Tolland Conservation Corps. Not in attendance were: Cynthia MacDonald and Don DiGenova.

B. Public Comment. – None

2. Boy Scout Project – Invasive Plants - None

3. New Business

A. Update from Linda Farmer – Ms. Query received an e-mail from the Garden Club and learned that it was giving \$1000 to the Tolland Conservation Commission. Ms. Farmer stated she would deposit the check and provide a running total at each meeting. Further discussion took place over the opportunity to have a newspaper publicize the gift of the \$1000 from the Garden Club to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Moreschi believed an ideal spot for a photo would be at the Campbell property on the rock but that neither Monday nor Tuesday would work and will e-mail Ms. Query a few dates. Ms. Query added that on June 13, 2009 the Invasive Species Seminar was held and money was collected for the presenter, Donna Ellis and her group; however, Ms. Ellis gave the money (totaling \$18.00) to the Tolland Conservation Commission. Ms. Query presented this money to Ms. Farmer who received it and presented it to Mr. Hankinson to help fund projects associated with the Tolland Conservation Commission. Mr. Hankinson received the funds.

Ms. Farmer addressed the Commission regarding the Implementation Schedule. This schedule has 2 tasks which need to be prioritized. Under the heading of Policies and Tasks the first task was the encouragement of the creation of backyard habitats and recognition efforts as well as the promotion of water conservation, sustainable developmental policies and the enhancement of water resources. The second task is to complete the train maps and create a town-wide trail map. Mr. Moreschi believed these are both priority items with Development Plans being the first priority and Trail Maps the second priority. Mr. Moreschi made a motion to vote on making both takes first priority – this was seconded by Ms. Query and all were in favor.

Further discussion took place including Ms. Farmer reminding the Commission of the Farmers' Policy which addresses maintaining open communication with farm owners. Ms. Farmer also noted the task of building more pathways. Mr. Koss questioned if the trails constituted pathways and Ms. Farmers stated that they did not. Mr. Moreschi recommended stating it as "Trails and Pathways". Mr. Symonds commented on the section with the heading Preservation of Tolland's Character regarding the issue of the

historical sites in Tolland. Mr. Symonds would like to broaden the term to include more than just historic buildings. Further, under the heading Townwide Steward for Historical Resources, he would like to identify the function of the steward and historian. Lastly, Mr. Symonds added that under Water Utilities that it referred to the Tolland Water Co. but this is a person so a definition is needed.

Mr. Moreschi noted that he received a notice regarding the Diversion of Water. The Town of Tolland has requested to divert water and inquired as to what this was referring. Mr. Koss explained that the Tolland Water Commission had applied for a renewed diversion permit; it has had a 220,000 gallon/day permit and has been operating under consensual agreement. Mr. Koss was told that another permit will be issued for 220,000 gallons/day. Mr. Moreschi confirmed that this is a continuation of what was authorized and that more research would be necessary in order to increase the 220,000 gallon/day rate. Mr. Koss explained that the issue is that they have asked for more study data and hopefully the work being performed by UConn will be completed this year yet it could be delayed due to the significant amount of rain received this season. Mr. Moreschi questioned if this would impact the Commission's charge. His general opinion is that the D.E.P. will do the diversion process and all should be fine; the D.E.P. looks at historic low flows to be certain that during low flow periods that an adequate habitat would be able to be maintained. Mr. Moreschi went on to say that the notice does not ask for comments but provided that opportunity for comments to be expressed. After a short discussion it was determined that no comment would be sent.

B. Meeting Procedures – Mr. Symonds commented that the agenda always mentions “alternate member” however there has not been one and further that he would like to see a standardized format and secondly that minutes be listed after the Call to Order followed by Old Business, New Business, Executive Session etc. and suggested that this become an item for discussion at the next workshop scheduled for August 27, 2009.

C. Sage Meadow Open Space and Lot 11 – Ms. Farmer distributed the e-mail to the Commission regarding Lot 11. She has spoken to Roseanne Gottier (monitor for Joshua's Trust) and understands that nothing has been done. Ms. Query asked for clarification of the information received at a previous meeting that the responsibility for the care of the Sage Meadow property was given to Joshua's Trust. Mr. Symonds added that this came up when the Commission discussed doing a plan for Sage Meadow and if it was Lot 11 vs. the remainder of the property. Ms. Farmer confirmed that Lot 11 falls under the Commission's purview. Mr. Symonds went on to say that it appears that Lot 11 is the Town's responsibility and the remainder falls under Joshua's Trust. Since Lot 11 was purchased, the Commission has an interest and would like to meet with Joshua's Trust. Ms. Farmer stated that she would invite a representative from Joshua's Trust to attend the next meeting.

Further discussion took place regarding Joshua's Trust. Ms. Query explained that \$5,000 was paid to Joshua's Trust and that a steward was appointed. Ms. Farmer confirmed \$5,000 was paid to Joshua's Trust and that a monitor exists but that a steward is not in place. Ms. Query added that in later years the Commission came up with a template for management plans and that one was started for Sage Meadow and this is probably where the confusion lies. She added that it is a wonderful, tranquil place and a great place for seniors and the handicapped. Ms. Query believes it is very important that

the property be used and hence would like to sit down with Joshua's Trust to discuss it. Mr. Symonds commented that contact should be made with Joshua's Trust and that questions be planned at the workshop. He added that a separate workshop or meeting be held and that this not be done during the traditional meeting. Mr. Moreschi proposed doing a workshop sometime in the fourth week of September.

D. Shafran Complaint – Mr. Symonds explained that he contacted Mr. Hankinson and together they went to the property. They did find a bag, cigarette butts and other trash items and noted that the map box was damaged. He explained that the property should be checked more often given the reports of kids congregating. He has driven by at various times but had not seen anything and inquired to the Commission as to what could be done to monitor the property. The Commission agreed that it should be monitored. Mr. Moreschi commented that he would get back to the complainant. Mr. Symonds added that the problem may have arisen due to the Trail Days article in the newspaper and hence there may have been more usage of the property.

Mr. Symonds added that the Commission needs to keep up with stocking the trail maps. Mr. Hankinson suggested a map be mounted permanently under Plexiglas and Ms. Query added that a note could be placed on the map boxes explaining that the maps are available on the website. It was further discussed that a note could be placed on the box requesting the public to return the map to the box when they were done at the location. Mr. Hankinson explained an article "Take a Hike" is currently being written for the October Tolland Monthly and that this issue could be addressed.

E. Schindler/Schmitt Open House – Mr. Hankinson commented that he would like to do an opening on a Sunday, perhaps with a ribbon cutting in October 2009 (proposed date of Sunday, October 18, 2009). Mr. Symonds agreed this was a good time to do it and Mr. Moreschi added that the Commission needs to get advertisements out and provide signage for the property. Mr. Symonds stated that he would e-mail Ms. Farmer regarding the signage. Mr. Koss volunteered to look for what was used previously in advertisements and would pass that along to the Commission. Mr. Moreschi inquired as to who should be invited from the family and Mr. Hankinson responded that he would Ms. Farmer and make the contact noting that it should be sponsored by the Commission. Mr. Symonds added that it should recognize the Tolland Conservation Corps as well. Mr. Moreschi will send invitations out to advertising vehicles including the recreation department, the town council, local schools, the garden club and Conserving Tolland. Mr. Koss has done the advertisements in the past for the papers and social calendars and will draft them and sent them along to Mr. Symonds. Mr. Symonds agreed and will e-mail Ms. MacDonald to learn more about getting the information out to local schools. Mr. Symonds moved to hold the Open house on 10/18/09 at 1 p.m. Mr. Koss seconded the motion and all were in favor.

4. Business Meeting

A. Approve minutes of July 9, 2009 – Mr. Moreschi motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Symonds seconded the motion. Discussion took place that on page 2, third paragraph, last sentence that Ms. Koss be changed to Mr Koss. It was also discussed that “Joshua’s’s Trust” is the term which should be used in the minutes. All were in favor of the motion.

5. Old Business

A. Tolland Conservation Corps – Mr. Hankinson stated that he has just visited all of the properties except for King and that they all looked good. He will install three 6’ sections at the King property and finish blazing it next week. Ms. Lattimer did a rough map for Schindler/Schmitt and it will be ready in September 2009. Further the additional signage needed at Schindler/Schmitt will be completed. Further, Mr. Hankinson has e-mailed stewards to find out if anything additional is needed, is planning five work session in the Fall and should have Knofla and Parciak done as well. Mr. Symonds added that two 15’, 2 x 10’ pieces of wood are available if Mr. Hankinson needs to span such an area and thanked Mr. Koss, Mr. Moreschi and Ms. Query for their assistance in obtaining and storing the wood.

B. Conservation Commission website additions – Mr. Holl explained Cindy Murdock had completed everything. The introduction is on the first page and scrolling is no longer necessary. The Tolland Conservation Corps information is not yet on the main page and he will resend the information to Ms. Murdock as well as address uploading photos with her. A feedback button is now available as well as links to other organizations and Mr. Holl encouraged feedback from the Commission. Further, the charge of the Commission has been moved to its own page and is listed in bullet format.

C. Management Plans – Mr. Symonds noted that the Auperin plan went to workshop and that comments were passed along to Cindy Murdock. Ms. Murdock made all of the changes and returned the plans to each member. Mr. Symonds wished to note that he had made one grammatical error that will need to be fixed. Mr. Holl asked is there was a takeaway on the well on the property and Mr. Koss commented that it was referred as something that would need to be addressed. Mr. Holl would like to add this to a meeting agenda or workshop. Mr. Moreschi commented that the well would be secured so that it is safe. Mr. Symonds suggested that the management plan be put on the agenda for the next meeting to invite comments and Mr. Holl added the item should be put on the next meeting’s agenda for approval. Mr. Moreschi motioned to approve the Auperin plan. Mr. Koss seconded the motion adding that this is subject to the maps being appended. All were in favor.

6. Reports of Subcommittees

- A. Land Rating – none
- B. Land Management – none
- C. Education and Outreach – none

7. Announcements – none

8. Executive Session – none
9. Adjournment – Mr. Moreschi motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 9:39 P.M and that the clerk be paid. Ms. Query seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk