

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT  
MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2010**

- a. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were: Phil Moreschi (Chair), Lois Query (Vice-Chair), Don DiGenova, Cynthia MacDonald, Richard Symonds, and Dorothy Mickiewicz. Eugene Koss arrived at 8:08 p.m. Others present: Eric Grulke, Boy Scout, Troop 2; Arthur Jacques, Boy Scout, Troop 61; Linda Farmer; Ken Hankinson. Not in attendance: Andrew Holl.
  - b. Additions to the Agenda

The following additions were made to the agenda:

    - 1c. Boy Scouts, Arthur Jacques
    - 4f. Note from Ms. Schmidt
    - 4g. Update on Sage Meadow

Mr. Symonds moved to seat Ms. Mickiewicz as a voting member and this was seconded by Ms. MacDonald.
2. Public Comments
- a. Comments for the public – 2 minutes - None
  - b. Boy Scouts, invasive plants – 5 minutes

Eric Grulke from Troop 2 in Tolland attended the meeting and told the Commission that he had selected the Auperin Property project. He inquired as to whether or not the cost for the construction of the bridge/boardwalk was in the Commission’s budget. Ms. Farmer and Mr. Hankinson explained that the boards are available. Mr. Grulke asked if the available wood is sustainable and environmentally sound and the Commission explained that indeed it is. Ms. Farmer commented that Steve Lowry would need to weigh in on this project and would determine if it had to go to Commission. Mr. Moreschi explained that Mr. Grulke should coordinate with Mr. Hankinson on the design and location of the bridge/boardwalk. Mr. Grulke will have other scouts working with him and believes the project will be completed by late May or June. He will keep the Conservation Commission updated.
  - c. Boy Scouts, Arthur Jacques

Tolland resident, Arthur Jacques from Troop 61, Mansfield introduced himself. He is interested in working on a project in order to pursue the Boy Scout’s Hornaday Award and had been in contact with Mr. Symonds who shared with him the list of projects the Commission had previously drawn up. Mr. Jacques’ timeline for the project is open and he has already visited the some of the properties listed but would like to walk them with someone for further clarification.

Mr. Jacques is interested in pursuing a project which would include the study of bluebirds. He is interested in building houses for the bluebirds and doing a 2 year study on what is nesting in them. Mr. Hankinson offered to walk the properties with Mr. Jacques to help identify which might be conducive to his interests. Mr. DiGenova explained that this project could take place on multiple properties such as Sage Meadow, Campbell and Heron Park since each would provide a different environment.

Mr. Moreschi suggested that Mr. Jacques develop a plan for the project and include how the bird houses and their residents would be monitored. Mr. Jacques explained that he had already identified an advisor and had a rough plan. Mr. DiGenova explained that the plan should be fine tuned to address the Conservation Commission and that he should return to the April 2010 meeting with a draft so that specifics could be discussed. Mr. Symonds suggested that Mr. Jacques walk the properties with Mr. Hankinson as well prior to the April meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2010 and Special Meeting February 25, 2010–  
5 Minutes

Mr. Symonds motioned to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2010 meeting. Ms. MacDonald seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Moreschi and Ms. Query abstained since they were not present at the meeting.

Ms. Mickiewicz motioned to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2010 meeting and Ms. MacDonald seconded the motion. Ms. Mickiewicz suggested that future minutes have narrow margins and less spacing in order to conserve paper and Mr. Moreschi recommended that the members print only those excerpts from the minutes on which they would like to comment. All were in favor.

4. Committee Reports

a. 83.3 acre Luce Property – DEP Open Space grant

Ms. Farmer informed the Commission that the Town of Tolland had closed on the Becker property and would be closing on the Luce property on March, 12, 2010. She explained there was a pending purchase and sale agreement for the 83.3 acre property and that the Town Council approved for a grant application to be submitted. Ms. Farmer requested that the Commission provide sound bites for the grant and put a resolution together that could be added to the April 8<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Additionally, rating systems were discussed and it was decided that this topic would be added to the Commission's workshop agenda.

b. Invasive Species Committee Report

• Children's Day Event

Ms. MacDonald explained that she requested assistance from Troop 2 for the invasive species maze which would be presented at Children's Day. Mr. Grulke advertised the event to the Troop and will do so again during the week of March 12, 2010. Ms. MacDonald explained that she would prepare decision charts and six plants. She asked Mr. Grulke to e-mail her with the Scouts' availability and she would note the information.

Further discussion took place regarding the logistics of the event, particularly the raffle items. Mr. Grulke suggested preparing Conservation Baskets which could include a tee shirt, metal water bottle, a pair of gloves, a trowel, seed packets and perhaps a hat. Mr. Hankinson offered to supply the tee shirts and hats. Ms. MacDonald will provide information on the Corps and other volunteer activities to visitors to the booth on Children's Day.

Ms. MacDonald explained that she had someone who would loan the Commission a canopy for the event and that she would have six potted sprigs of invasive species available. These would be strategically placed in the maze and a guide would bring a group (up to four children) through the maze with the decision charts to teach the them

about the plants. The April Tolland Monthly will include an article on the event and visitors to the booth will receive information on alternative plants as well as a calendar to assist them in planning invasive plant removal in their own yards.

Ms. MacDonald explained that she would need thirty or forty 6' garden stakes to set up the maze and Mr. Symonds offered to inquire if any were available. Additionally, Ms. MacDonald would like to order 200 copies of "Invasive Plants in Your Backyard" (cost of .75 each) to distribute at the event as well. Mr. Symonds motioned to approve up to \$400 to be spent on the event and Mr. Koss seconded the motion. All were in favor.

c. Willimantic River Alliance – update

• Walktober event at King Property

Ms. MacDonald explained that the Willimantic River Alliance would like to include the King property on the CT Greenways Walk. Ideally a guide would be present as well on the day of the event. Ms. MacDonald will contact Maxine Cole to determine if she would be interested in acting as the guide and if so, her availability in October.

d. Tolland Conservation Corps

Mr. Hankinson distributed the Tolland Conservation Corps' Annual Review for projects completed in 2009 and pending plans for 2010 and reviewed this piece. This document included property stewards' contact information and the projected spring work dates.

Mr. Hankinson distributed the Tolland Conservation Corps' Projected Expenses for the April and May 2010 work sessions and reviewed this piece with the Commission. He expressed some concerns regarding ATV use at the Stoppleworth and Campbell properties and explained that this was the reason for the request of the "no ATV" signs.

Mr. Symonds moved to approve the Tolland Conservation Corps' request for funds. Mr. Koss seconded this motion. All were in favor.

e. Website Additions and Update

Mr. Moreschi e-mailed Mr. Holl regarding the website and is awaiting a response. Ms. Query noted that there is one item which is out of date on the last page. Mr. Symonds added he would like to see information on the Conservation Corps' maintenance project schedule as well as the Children's Day event on the site. Mr. Moreschi suggested that the Commission contact Ms. Farmer to learn what the most efficient and effective way is to keep the site updated.

f. Note from Ms. Schmidt

Mr. Moreschi read the Thank You card he received from Ms. Schmidt to the Commission.

g. Update on Sage Meadow

Mr. Moreschi noted that he had signed the baseline document report and returned it to Joshua's Trust

5. Old Business - None

6. New Business

Mr. Symonds reminded the Commission of the fantastic owl program which will be held March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Lodge.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Symonds motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 9:40 p.m. and that the clerk be paid.  
Ms. Query seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi  
Clerk