CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 14, 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: Richard Symonds, Cynthia MacDonald and Dorothy Mickiewicz. Absent were: Phil Moreschi (Chair), Lois Query (Vice Chair), Don DiGenova (Secretary) and Eugene Koss.

2. Public Comments
   a. Comments from the public – 2 minutes - None
   b. Boy Scouts
      - Troop 2, Tolland – invasive plants – 5 minutes

        The scout master explained that a crew of 12 boys and 4 adults will begin work on the Auperin property on October 30th and he will get in touch with Mr. Hankinson regarding arranging to pick up the material for the bridge. Additionally, Clint Morris will be with the troop with his GPS equipment to walk the trail and add the information to the map. Mr. Hankinson advised that they do the Weigold and Auperin maps together and it was agreed that Mr. Morris would walk both trails. Since the map is being re-done Ms. MacDonald suggested adding the work being done on the dam as well.

      - Troop 61, Mansfield – bluebird project

        Mr. Arthur Jacques explained that he has sold 49 bluebird houses and 8 ducks at the Farmer's Market. He started working on the project at the Weigold property and sprayed the poison ivy. Mr. Jacques will get in touch with Mr. Symonds to confirm a date to use the wood chipper; the possible dates are October 23rd/24th or November 6th/7th. Ms. Mickiewicz asked what Mr. Jacques had found in the birdhouses but he didn't yet have anything to report.

3. Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2010 Regular Meeting – 2 minutes - None

4. Committee Reports

   a. Campbell Farm – Potential Farm Easement on 13.1 acres – 15 minutes

   Ms. Farmer spoke with Elisabeth Moore at the CT Farmland Trust regarding the property and noted that traditionally the easements are for 25+ acres and specific soil types but that it will be on the October 26th Town Council agenda.

   b. Annual Report

   Ms. Farmer explained the report is due October 14th and that it would be in the following week.

   Ms. Farmer also noted that the Luce grant of $270K had been awarded and that she and Cindy Murdock attended the event. The next step will be to have an A2 survey completed before the snow arrives.

c. Activity Reports

- "Celebrate Tolland"

Mr. Symonds commented that Ms. Query was at the event and that it was well done and very successful.

- Parciak Open House

Ms. MacDonald commented that the Open House was well done and passed around a composite of photographs from the event to the members at the meeting. The trails, signage and map box looked fabulous as well.
Mr. Hankinson explained that he had received positive feedback and that people liked the trail and the Bald Hill entrance.
Ms. MacDonald suggested adding information regarding the additional parking and entrance on Burbank to the signage.

d. Tolland Conservation Corps – 15 minutes

Mr. Hankinson passed out the Tolland Conservation Corps 2010 Fall Work Session and Projects list with dates to the members of the Commission and reviewed the document. Mr. Hankinson also handed out the Tolland Conservation Corps Projected Expense Budget for Fall 2010 Season to the members and reviewed this piece as well. Since a quorum was not available Mr. Hankinson will wait until November to request approval for the expenses.
Mr. Symonds asked what he should do with the chippings which will be made available from the Scout's project. Mr. Hankinson recommended using a blower to clean the parking lot and then spreading the chips with a wheelbarrow. Mr. Symonds will contact Mr. Hankinson with the date of when the chipping will be performed once it is confirmed.

e. Willimantic River Alliance – update – 2 minutes

Ms. MacDonald explained the Alliance is gearing up for the Walktober event. The King property is listed and the event will be held on October 29th at 10:00 a.m. starting at Merrow Meadow.
Ms. MacDonald also noted that the Alliance has been monitoring the River through the dry summer and although it is low, the River is not at drought level.

f. Invasive Species Committee Report – 2 minutes None

5. Old Business - None

6. New Business

Ms. MacDonald is interested in hearing of any ideas which could be used for Earth Day 2011.

7. Adjournment

Consensus was made to adjourn the information meeting and to pay the clerk at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk