

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2009**

1. Call to Order.

a. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were: Phil Moreschi (Chair), Lois Query (Vice-Chair), Richard Symonds, Andrew Holl and Cynthia MacDonald. Eugene Koss arrived at 7:52 p.m. Others present: Ken Hankinson, Tolland Conservation Corps, Boy Scout Troop 2 leaders and scouts(2). Not in attendance: Don DiGenova.

b. Additions to the Agenda

Executive session added; item 4f changed from “specials” to “species”; item 7 changed to read Agreed/Adjournment.

2. Public Comments

a. Comments for the public – 2 minutes - None

b. Boy Scouts, invasive plants – 5 minutes

Troop 2 from Tolland presented documents (both paper and electronic) to Mr. Moreschi which included two applications. Also included were a summary of the project and photographs. The Troop leader stated that the gallery of pictures may be used as long as there are no recognizable faces in the photographs. Mr. Holl will contact the Troop with the photos they (the Commission) wish to use for approval prior to posting them on the internet. The Troop also inquired if the Commission had created a list of projects for future Scout interests and since this list was not yet complete, the Troop leader will return to the Commission’s workshop to pick up the documents and at that time pick up the list. Mr. Moreschi asked if there was a specific area where the Scouts would like to focus. Mr. Darren Melenday from Troop 2 is requesting an Eagle Scout project, Life Scout, 100 hour service project. One third of the time is performed by the Scout requesting/leading the project while the other two thirds are performed by the leader’s troop.

Mr. Holl suggested the project of taking an inventory of the invasive plants and then gleaning a parcel that would be of a manageable level. Mr. Moreschi asked if this needs to be a tangible project or if an inventory would be acceptable as well. Mr. Hankinson suggested working on the cellar hole on the Stoppeworth property, cleaning it out, reclaiming the area and adding a plaque. Further, Mr. Hankinson suggested another project which could provide benefits for years to come. This would be behind the Benton Homestead and would consist of building a series of three benches at angles so when schools visit they would also be able to have a nature presentation. Mr. Symonds suggested that this latter suggestion be coordinated with the Tolland Historical Society and that the project should include an information sheet with donor information, the historical aspect of the site and its size.

Ms. MacDonald suggested the project of taking inventory of wildlife, trees, birds, flowers and perhaps creating a CD which could be used in schools. Additionally, she suggested contacting the Willimantic River Alliance as well. Mr. Moreschi mentioned the Weingold property which has a dam with old stone masonry and suggested that it would be nice to open and expose this area as well as provide experience to the Scouts in developing a permit application.

3. Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2009 – 5 Minutes

Mr. Symonds motioned to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2009 meeting and Ms. Query seconded the motion. Ms. MacDonald noted that on page 1, second paragraph under Boy Scouts in the fourth sentence “wok” should be “work”. Additionally it should be noted that Mr. Symonds seconded the motion in the same paragraph, not Mr. Moreschi. All were in favor of the changes. Mr. Moreschi abstained.

4. Committee Reports

a. Meeting with Joshua’s Trust

Ms. Query commented that she believed the meeting was well done. It clarified that Joshua’s Trust is the holder of the easement and that Ms. Gottier is the monitor of the property and thus the Tolland Conservation Commission may design a management plan for the property and submit it to Joshua’s Trust for review. Mr. Symonds inquired regarding the management plans and Joshua’s Trust agreed that this should be a joint project and a draft was presented to Joshua’s Trust which they took with them. Mr. Holl agreed that they should collaborate on a management plan and that the Commission could establish stewardship of the property.

b. Sage Meadow Management Plan and Management Planning

Ms. MacDonald inquired as to whether the \$5,000 is in an account for Sage Meadow and Mr. Moreschi explained that he believes the money was given to Joshua’s Trust and is not accessible. Mr. Moreschi added that he would like to communicate with Joshua’s Trust on Sage Meadow regarding clearing out the area so as to open the view. He will contact Mr. Warren Church from Joshua’s Trust to thank him for the meeting.

c. Schindler/Schmidt Open House

Mr. Moreschi noted that the following people/groups would be at the open house: representatives from Boy Scout Troop 2, Bill Magnatta, Al Schindler will speak to the history of the property, Conserving Tolland, Tolland Conservation Corp and possibly the Town Council. Mr. Moreschi will be present as well to open the event.

Mr. Hankinson added that the event will be in the Hartford Courant on Friday, October 9, 2009 and that parking would be available along Sugar Hill and Bakos roads and volunteers will be available to direct attendees. Further, Tolland Conservation Corp has posted a sign for identification, will be using the parking lot as a staging area and will arrive at the event at 12:15 P.M. Mr. Hankinson added that gravel would be needed to fill a particularly low spot in the parking lot and the topic of bringing refreshments to the event was addressed and discussed.

Lastly, Mr. Koss added that the Courant will list the event in its Calendar on Thursday, October 15, 2009. He will contact the Courant to inquire about having a local writer recognize the Tolland Conservation Commission as well. A listing of the event will also be in the Reminder as well as the Weekend Journal Inquirer.

d. Tolland Conservation Corps

Mr. Hankinson commented that Schindler/Schmidt is in good condition and that the Knofla work session has been scheduled (noting that George Mantek is the new steward). He also distributed the Walktober '09 calendar to the Commission. Lastly, he reported that although he had projected spending of \$167 in September that \$159.39 was actually spent and that he does not anticipate any significant spending in October. He will make November projections soon.

It was brought to the attention of the Commission that there may be open space available and it was voted that the Commission would go into Executive Session for discussion. This was motioned by Mr. Koss and seconded by Mr. Symonds. The Commission went into Executive Session at 8:15 P.M. and returned at 8:19 P.M.

e. Website additions and update

Mr. Holl will add a link to Joshua's Trust as well as Donna Ellis' page. He will also add an invasive species page and will send everything to Cindy Murdock along with some additional pictures for the gallery. Mr. Symonds inquired as to how the Commission is doing on maps and Mr. Hankinson commented that he would like 100 maps. Additionally, Mr. Holl will ask Cindy Murdock to put electronic copies of the maps on the website.

Ms. Query asked if a map for King was available and Mr. Symonds responded that it was not. Ms. MacDonald added that it is on the River Alliance website. Mr. Koss suggested that in the future the Commission might add "information on all Tolland Conservation Areas is available at www.tolland.org." Mr. Symonds added that a generic brochure should be considered and that all of the literature be updated at one time. Mr. Hankinson showed the Commission a copy of Mansfield's package of twelve maps which are housed in a folder. This allows all of Mansfield's maps to be in one package and a larger map identifying the areas on a single page.

f. Invasive species report

The subcommittee has not yet met and Ms. Query suggested that this is something that should be prepared now for action in the Spring. Mr. Moreschi suggested at the next workshop that general issues be addressed and then the Commission should split off into committees. Lastly, Mr. Symonds noted that the following should be reviewed at the Workshop: Boy Scout project, Invasive Species and a discussion on the Knofla and Sage Meadow properties.

g. Any other reports - None

5. Old Business

a. Discussion of agenda format

Mr. Symonds suggested adding "setting the agenda" toward the end of the agenda and to put "additions to the agenda" under Call to Order. In the future he also believes timelines could be added.

6. New Business

a. Motions requiring adoption

Mr. Symonds suggested that if there was a complex motion in the future, that one of the members of the Conservation Commission would write it out for the Clerk and that

prior to adjournment the agenda for the next meeting should be set. Mr. Moreschi asked if there was anything the Commission would like to add to the next agenda. It was suggested that the Knofla Plan be added to the upcoming agenda as well as the Joshua's Trust discussion, Sage Meadow, a recap of Schindler/Schmidt and a discussion of what happened at the workshop regarding the Boy Scouts. Any additional ideas should be e-mailed to Cindy Murdock. The Commission will also think about project ideas and communicate with its members via e-mail.

7. Agreed/Adjournment

Mr. Symonds motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 P.M and that the clerk be paid.

Ms. Query seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk