

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT  
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 14, 2009**

1. Call to Order

A. Attendance - Seat alternate member, if necessary. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Present were: Lois Query, (Vice-Chair), Don DiGenova (Secretary), Richard Symonds, and Andrew Holl. Others present were: representatives from Scout Troops 2 in Tolland.

B. Public Comment. – None

2. Boy Scout Project – Invasive Plants

Troop 2 from Tolland visited the site on Saturday, 4/25. This was the first day with the selected group of 9 boys and 3 adults. The work was performed 9:00AM – 3:00PM on 4/25/09. All brush was removed from along the stone wall. The brush still needs to be put into a series of large piles. Stumps of the plants were left behind (approximately 1' out of the ground) for quick identification when the Troop returns in June to pull them. Ms. Query commented that she had some concerns about the use of the weed wrench for stump removal. After examination of the weed wrench she is concerned that the area around the base of the stumps is quite small and the weed wrench may not prove helpful. The Scouts discussed that they did try to remove the stumps with a pick axe and shovel but concluded the roots are quite wild below the ground hence they cut the stumps down with a gas powered hedge trimmer.

The Scouts requested permission for camping at the property on June 13<sup>th</sup> when they return so they could accommodate the scouts' schedules. This camp would allow them to work on Saturday and provide an opportunity for them to stay and finish on Sunday.

The issue of a campfire was raised and the Commission decided to approve the application with the provision of the Scouts checking with the fire department first.

3. New Business

A. Nye-Holman Management Plan – Plan should be reviewed and if in favor of the state purchasing the Tantillo Property then the Commission should write a letter in support.

B. Future Community Projects – Ms. Query motioned to table this to the workshop and Mr. Symonds seconded the motion.

4. Business Meeting

A. Approve minutes of April 23, 2009 – Mr. Symonds motioned to accept the minutes and Mr. Holl seconded this. All were in favor – no additions or corrections

5. Old Business

A. June Workshop with Donna Ellis – Ms. Query confirmed who had the flyers for the event and stated that no one had signed up as of yet. The Tolland Monthly will be in time and at the workshop they will decide what to do in terms of refreshments etc.

- B. Tolland Conservation Corps - The Commission has received a report prepared by Ken Hankinson and Ms. Query reviewed the report. Mr. Symonds told the Commission that Mr. Hankinson is the Lion's Club Citizen of the Year and that an award ceremony would be held on Monday, May 18, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. He requested that the Commission provide formal recognition via a resolution. Mr. DiGenova will write this and email it to Cindy Murdock. Mr. DiGenova motioned for this letter, Mr. Holl seconded the motion and all were in favor.
  
- C. Conservation Commission website additions – Mr. Holl distributed a template of a proposed website for the Commission. This template added the following under Navigation: Conservation Commission Charge, Conservation Organizations and Upcoming Events. Additionally the charter was moved to another page and the Invasive Species Workshop was moved to Upcoming Events. Mr. Holl believes the page should ideally be in a 3 column format.

Discussion ensued that the issue of the leash law should be added to the website as well as the information in the handout distributed to the Commission by Mr. Symonds:

**INTRODUCTION:** The Conservation Commission was created on August 25, 1998 by resolution 03-40 with an advisory function on open space issues. Its current mission includes research, maintaining and inventory of open space areas, development of conservation education programs, evaluation and proposal for open space acquisition, and oversight of the Town's Conservation areas.

**INTRODUCTION TO MANAGEMENT PLANS:** The Conservation Commission oversees the operation and maintenance of the Town's Conservation Properties. For each property there is a management plan that serves as a guide for use of the property. Each plan has been prepared in accordance with a process, "Open Space Management Guidelines an Process" approved by the Town Council (Link to Process); The process assigns overall on-site responsibility for operations and maintenance to the Head Steward of the Tolland Conservation Corp in concert with a property steward assigned to each conservation area. Each property is posted with approved and prohibited uses that are based upon the environmental characteristics of the property. Town residents are encouraged to use the property and be respectful of other visitors. Where dogs are allowed they must be leashed according to Town ordinance. For each area, the management plans provide additional information.

**AFTER THE PLANS –** The Commission would like to hear about your experiences and reactions relating to use of Tolland's conservation areas.

**COMMENTS –** Area, Comments, Name/Email (optional). Additionally a link to the map for each property should be added.

- D. Management Plans – Mr. Symonds said the Auperin, Palmer and Knofla property templates were done.
- 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. Symonds motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 P.M. Ms. Query motioned that they pay the clerk and Mr. Holl seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi  
Clerk