

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 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: Lois Query, (Vice-Chair), Richard Symonds, Cynthia MacDonald, and Eugene Koss. Others present were: Ken Hankinson of the Tolland Conservation Corps and Linda Farmer, Director of Planning and Community Development.

Agenda item 3D added: Tolland Trail Days.

B. Public Comment. – None

2. Boy Scout Project – Invasive Plants

Ken Hankinson explained that Troop 2 from Tolland will be at the Campbell property the weekend of June 13th and 14th. In attendance will be 40 boys and 6 adults, of these 23 boys and 4 adults will stay overnight on the property. The purpose of the visit is to perform stump removal. The Boy Scouts will do a final wrap up with a report which will be available for the Conservation Commission Meeting in July 2009.

3. New Business

A. CT Conference of Municipalities – Biodiversity Inquiry – The Commission received an email regarding this topic. After a brief discussion it was determined that the Commission would ask Steve Lowry to respond to the email.

B. Future Community Projects – The Commission had been approached by the Scouts to learn what projects might be available to them (the Scouts) in the future. Mr. Hankinson suggested that work could be done on the Benton Homestead trail and that an amphitheater could be built out (benches lined up at an angle) on the property as well. Further, Stopplesworth's foundation could be outfitted with a plaque after it was cleaned up and measures taken to prevent it from deteriorating in the future. Ms. MacDonald suggested that historical research could be performed on the wells and foundations on the properties. She added that the Scouts could also inventory the invasive plants. Mr. Symonds suggested that the dam on the Weingold property be researched along with the history of the old mill site that was once at that location.

C. Campbell Property – Campout BSA Troop 2 see item #2 for discussion

- D. Tolland Trail Days – Discussion focused on the Trail Days article published in the Hartford Courant on 06/07/09. In the article, geocaching was discussed and some of the Conservation properties were cited as locations that participants in the hobby may want to visit on trail days. Mr. Hankinson commented that while this was a popular activity it would be preferable if the geocaches were kept close to the trail. Mr. Koss expressed some concern regarding overuse of the properties and Mr. Symonds suggested that geocaching be addressed on land management plans in the future. Ms. Query motioned to table the discussion. For further information, the two websites cited in the Courant article were: www.tollandtraildays.com and www.conservingtollandct.org.

Ms. Farmer wrapped up the discussion by informing the Commission that she had been contacted by Hamilton Standard regarding the \$1000 grant that was secured by Mr. DiGenova.

4. Business Meeting

- A. Approve minutes of May 14, 2009 – Table until the July 2009 Conservation Commission meeting.

5. Old Business

A. June Workshop with Donna Ellis – Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. – Ms. Farmer stated that there were 30 participants signed up for the event. Ms. MacDonald inquired if there was an honorarium set up for Donna and it was decided that a donation box (basket with signage) would be made available at the Workshop for those participants who wished to support Ms. Ellis’ CT Invasive Plant Working Group. The Commission representative would let the audience know about this opportunity to support Ms. Ellis’ work via an announcement at the end of the meeting. It was confirmed that coffee would be provided as well as the napkins, cups and plates. The Commission members will bring finger food items and Ms. Query confirmed that the Recreation Department had been contacted.

B. Tolland Conservation Corps - Mr. Hankinson explained that the work sessions are now complete. All of the properties look good and are getting a lot of use. Parsiak and Knofla are both scheduled for Fall 2009. Lastly, the details of the Conservation Corp Picnic were discussed.

C. Conservation Commission website additions – Table until the July 2009 Conservation Commission meeting.

D. Management Plans – Mr. Symonds confirmed that the changes and additions previously suggested by Ms. MacDonald had been made. Mr. Symonds will ask Cindy Murdock to send copies to all of the Conservation Commission members. Additionally, he will draft something regarding geocaching or other group use of the properties for the workshop.

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 8:30 P.M and that the clerk be paid. Mr. Koss seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk