

Conservation Commission
Minutes: April 26, 2005
Windsor Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Beaudin, Davis, Dolliver, Harvey, Hinckley, Langevin, Rogovich, Yeich, Smith; Staff, Parker; guest, Dr. Mike Davis

Old Business

- Frank appeared before the Town Council to present the CCs Annual Report of accomplishments and future direction.

- The town's Planning Department reported that the Hayden Station Road property cannot be developed in the future due to the new wetlands guidelines which changed as of April 2, 2005. Documentation should be submitted with CC minutes for future reference.

- FYI: Any expenditure in excess of \$10,000 requires a Special Town Meeting. This includes purchase of development rights. (Frank will double check on this regulation.) The Open Space Fund is controlled by the Town Council.

Mike Davis distributed and reviewed the Windsor Plan of Conservation urging members to read the document carefully and become familiar with its contents. He pointed out that there are many areas which the commission could and should implement. He also addressed Camp Shalom (on Rainbow Reservoir) and encouraged that a dialogue begin to inquire about the property.

Examine the topography of landscape, coordinate conservation efforts, ask for \$, (although it was felt that the timing was not right) and set realistic goals were a few suggestions forthcoming. Examine other funding mechanisms such as: bonding, a fee on real estate sales from both buyer and seller, budget line item for acquisition of open space.

Ford volunteered to act as the conduit between the manager's office and the CC. Ford and Terry will work on a strategic plan to bring before the commission and ultimately to present to the Town Manager.

It was suggested that we invite council members to a meeting in order to outline our specific goals and to enlist their help in moving our plan forward.

Shad Derby: Meg will create a bean bag toss game with a conservation theme for kids. She'll distribute

lollipops for all who participate. Needs for the day: table, chair, laminated banner...

Blais, Meg, Sam, Ann, and Frank will assist @ the booth on May 21st.

Meg will continue her relationship with the Akutowicz property heirs to fill them in on options. Need to find out how much of the land can be developed.

Ann & Colette are working on a brochure and needs stats which Terry will supply for the body of text.

Colette has ordered the magnets from Professional Promotions that will be delivered on May 18th to town hall. She will arrange pick up and delivery to Ford @ Northwest Park.

Frank reported that the Lord property consisting of 60 houses subdivision was approved by the TP & Z; however it was rejected by Inlands/Wetlands. The Open Space Fund stands to receive a total of \$120,000 and will be disbursed as lots are sold.

Dick will continue to pursue information on Chateau Woods and inquire about obtaining a pedestrian easement along the river. The assessor said that it would have minimal impact on taxes.

Sam would like to contact communities that have been successful in acquiring open space. He is referencing Conservation Finance Handbook for ideas.

Terry will inquire about the objectives and mission statements from the following conservation groups:

- Land Trust Service Bureau
- Land Trust Coalition for CT
- Trust for Public Lands
- Nature Conservancy
- CT Farmland Trust
- Working Land Alliance

She will put together a process sheet on acquiring land.

Meeting was adjourned @ 9:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 31, 2005