

**Conservation Commission Minutes  
January 25, 2005 Windsor Town Hall**

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

**Roll Call**

Present: Barnaby, Clarke Johnson, Davis, Dolliver, Harvey, Hinckley, Langevin, Smith, Rogovich, Yeich; Staff: Parker

**Old Business**

Chairman Frank reported on the response from the Open Space Mailer. There are 12,000 households in Windsor, 1,000 of which were randomly selected and sent the solicitation for donations. As of December 31, the response has put \$3,190 in the open space coffers building the account to \$16,800. Mailers were also distributed by Sheila in her neighborhood and @ work.

Plans and suggestions for further distribution of the mailer:

- \* Shad Derby in May, set up booth (\$40.00 output)
  - \* Frank will make a brief presentation to Town Council, distribute mailers and will also request \$2,000 be budgeted for use by the commission.
  - \* Earth Day townwide event is being planned (Ford will fill us in on details as they become available)
  - \* The commission could hold an Annual Open Space Fund event
  - \* Centre Coffee Bar - Colette will drop off
  - \* Sheila - will drop off @ St. Gabriel's
  - \* Winsome - will drop off @ St. Joseph's; Episcopal Church and Dale Drug; Sam @ Grace Church; Ford @ Northwest Park
  - \* Suggested drop off points-First Church; libraries in Wilson and temporary town center library @ Aglow
  - \* Banks?
  - \* Meg will walk the center and drop off at a variety of businesses i.e. Windsor Donut, Geissler's, PC Development ...
  - \* Ford will research the possibility of the Scouts adopting distribution/collection as a community project
  - \* Colette will request an article be written for the next First Town Downtown newsletter.
- 
- Lord Property - Inlands/Wetlands meeting in Feb. will continue discussing this property. Frank will attend and reported that if approved, the Open Space Fund will receive \$2,000 per lot. Sixty lots are scheduled for development.

**New Business**

- Terry asked how the commission could become part of the discussion/decision process when developments are proposed and up for review. Frank reminded members that former member, Adam, opened the doors for us to be included in the process and had verbiage added to the Plan of Development that would increase our responsibilities to this effect.
- List of meeting dates was made available.

- Frank will forward the report via email on the Lower Farmington River Wild & Scenic Study Status for our personal review.
- Meg reported that the Akutowicz property on Poquonock Avenue, which consists of farming acreage, has been willed to a nephew in Germany who, when she spoke with him, is interested in maintaining the parcel as farmland. She will contact him via email to continue the dialogue.
- Sheila will do some probing into a parcel consisting of approximately 100 acres on Dudleytown Road. It is rumored that the owner would like the land to remain as is in perpetuity after her death.
- Mike Davis spoke on Development Rights strongly urged the commission to draft a document/contract for usage as a vehicle to accept open space, natural areas, and preserve farmland. He volunteered to help us with the language.

He further suggested:

Inventory Windsor's at-risk land parcels and those which can be saved.

Commissioners stay informed on land issues and always keep several steps ahead of the mainstream.

Look for other funding sources to make funds grow; i.e. National Coastal Wetlands Program, USDA Farmland Preservation Program; & Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Research information on endangered species in the area & biological corridors.

- It was suggested that members access Windsor's Plan of Development online and become knowledgeable on open space matters.
- Terry mentioned the Kings Mark Environmental Review Team and possibly contracting them to review some of the commission's targeted properties. She said their work is done gratis.
- The Nature Conservancy's mission is to create biological corridors and to acquire funds to purchase land. Frank suggested that we recruit a speaker from the organization. Ford will follow through.

#### **Commissioner's Comments**

- Sam is tracking properties across the state that are being preserved and the funding associated with the acquisition. He cited Simsbury's latest open space acquisition and noted that the funding was a collaboration. The USDA releases \$9.2 million annually for preservation. There are dollars out there ready to invest in open space.
- Terry would like several items added to the mailer for the next printing; namely the number of available undeveloped acres left in town; and a line with a check-off box for those who wish their donation to be anonymous. Ford will contact town hall to get the stats on the acreage that is undeveloped in Windsor. She also suggested that bonding be added to next month's agenda.

Meeting adjourned @ 9 p.m.

**Next meeting: February 22, 2005**