**Conservation Commission Minutes**
**October 24, 2006**
**Rose Room, Town Hall**
**Unapproved Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Beaudin, Dolliver, D. Davis, Harvey, Hinckley, Rogovich, Smith, Yeich

September minutes were approved unanimously.

Vice Chairwomen, Ann presided over the meeting in Frank Davis' absence.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ann suggested that we begin collecting articles from publications regarding open space. These articles would be duplicated and sent to members of the TPZ, Town Planner, and the Town Manager in order to raise consciousness regarding the multi-benefits of conserving precious open space. A cover letter will accompany the grouping of articles. Hopefully, this will strengthen our mission and validate tax value vs. property value appeal. It was suggested that we do this on a regular basis. Each Commission member is charged with submitting two articles per month. Smith suggested that we organize the articles by towns. Ann also suggested that we send text from the Save Open Space brochure to the JI for publication.

#2 301 Pigeon Hill Road – made up of three parcels: agricultural piece, residence, and open space area. No news - unable to contact owners.

Windsor Land Trust – 3 Rod Road on hold – settling legalities.

Newsletter is in the works. Presented to the Rotary Club, last month to League of Women Voters last month.

CT River Trail – According to the Plan of Conservation and Development the map shows a proposed Bissell Bridge and River trail near Bart's using the railroad right of way. The group thought that this was worth investigating. It circumvents using the Loomis/Chaffee property and would connect with Hartford to the South and Windsor Locks to the North. The RR tracks have a 70' wide corridor, which is sufficient to blaze a trail. Sam will contact Amtrak to inquire about the feasibility of a rail trail.

Landowner Incentives - tabled

**OLD BUSINESS**

The printing of the SOS brochure is still in limbo and the concern is that the information may have to be altered if on-hold much longer. Colette will research.

It was suggested that we contact printing businesses to see if they would print gratis (quoted price, $675 prepaid). The open space fund's balance is $27,000. Colette will investigate the basic workings of the fund and the process necessary to obtain monies for incidentals. She will also inquire about CC's budget and if one exists. According to D. Davis, Chairman Davis may ask if we can set up an operating budget.

WCC Strategic Discussion – tabled

We need to set up clusters of land for targeting – Cyd Groff could help with the identification of wild life corridors.

Round Table – Colette suggested that we begin work on trying to market a CT license plate with a mission to Save Open Space. Simplistically, the goal would be twofold – an awareness campaign and raising monies to be placed in the Windsor open space coffers.

Preliminary step - We need to prepare a comprehensive presentation to the special plates division @ the motor vehicle department.

If approved, we must return with the rendered design, which must then go through an approval process.

Production begins with a coil of about 500 plates. We must guarantee that a large percentage of these plates will be sold.

The letter writing regarding litter was postponed until next meeting.

David suggested that we summarize each article (sent to town officials) submitted.

Commission members need to think about the contents of the cover letter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.