

**CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2010**

1. Call to Order: 6:10pm in City Hall, Land Use Office, 140 Main Street, Torrington, CT.
2. Roll Call & Announcements:
 - a. Attending the meeting were Chris Altman, Scott Whittaker, Brian Reardon, Kevin Fitzgerald, Linda Beyus and staff person Kim Barbieri
3. Minutes for Approval:
 - a. 5/11/10: Motion to APPROVE K. Fitzgerald. 2nd by B. Reardon. Vote passed unanimously. S. Whittaker abstained.
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Report: No change in the Open Space Fund or Conservation Commission Fund
5. Old Business:
 - a. Discussion of letter to finance board: K. Fitzgerald signed and will be forwarded to City Clerk's Office for the next Board of Finance meeting.
 - b. Update Leoni property brochure/fund-raising: K. Barbieri reported that only \$2095 has been raised thus far in our efforts to raise the \$57,100 needed to purchase the Leoni property. Discussion followed on fundraisers and what ideas might be best for helping us meet our goals. The 3 top ideas were:
 1. A golf tournament at either Torrington Country Club or Greenwoods Country Club. Kim's brother in law has organized many golf tournaments and could aid us in the steps we need to take. Kim is to explore options and return to the group with ideas outlined.
 2. A 'picnic and auction' at Machuga Park. The idea would be to host a nice picnic in the park, have a treasure hunt and art auction (focusing on art from reused or recycled material or natural material). It would give people an opportunity to see why we like and NEED this property so much.
 3. A CLF light bulb sale at the fall Energy Fair. K. Barbieri to touch base with Jean Cronaur to discuss feasibility.To help facilitate the fundraising events the Commission approved 4 additional dated for meetings over the summer (locations are to be determined)
Tuesday, June 29th Tuesday, July 13th Tuesday, July 27th &
Tuesday, August 10th
 - c. Discussion events schedule and plan for connecting with public: C. Altman reported than not one person has come to any of the walks that have been scheduled from February through May 30th. That said we need to interface with a trail group and the Sue Grossman Greenway Committee was brought up – it was thought they might be disbanded but it appears they are alive and well. K. Barbieri is to set up a meeting with the Committee to discuss becoming partners in the request for Nation Park Service help for expanding our trails system. In the mean time the walks will be cancelled.
It was decided to keep in place the trail day at Machuga Park and schedule it for 8:30 Sunday, June 27th. Brett Simmons, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation has pledge support with help from a staff person to help layout and bushwhack the field trails. Waivers for helpers will be required.

Interest remained in doing a fall clean up – the idea was not to hold a generalized clean up but maybe pick a one or two sites to be cleaned up including graffiti removal or landscaping. That clean up would be held in September.

6. New Business:

- a. Naugatuck River Clean Up – June 5 – Wrap Up: The event was well attended. Not as well attended as in the past but at least 25 people went out to clean the river. Less garbage and debris was picked up indicating the river is not being used as regularly as it was for dumping. DEP did electro-shocking sampling of the fish underneath and near the East Albert Street bridge and found a great diversity of ‘bait’ fish, plus two ~12” Brook Trout (one native) and one Rainbow Trout also ~ one foot long – all indicators of a very healthy stream habitat.

7. Staff Report:

- a. Open Discussion: B. Reardon had an idea to put up Plexiglas boxes for our Leoni brochure at the trail. K. Barbieri will discuss with the SGG Committee to get permission. Brian also commented on the lack of maintenance of the landscaping at the new Lowe’s location and noted the trees at the new Stop & Shop weren’t staked and ‘tilted’ during the last storm. K. Barbieri will follow up on these items.

8. Adjournment:

7:12 pm meeting was adjourned. KF/CA – Vote all.

Kimberly H. Barbieri, CZ&WEO
Staff to Conservation Commission

cc: P/Z, IWC, City Clerk, Mayor’s Office