



CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 7, 2013

1. Call to Order: 6:42pm, Land Use Office, Room 324, 140 Main Street, Torrington, CT.
2. Roll Call & Announcements:
 - a. Attending tonight's meeting are Chris Altman, Tara Jo Holmberg, Diane Carroll, Butch Klug, Stephen Michna & staff Kim Barbieri
3. Minutes for Approval:
 - a. 1/10/13 – A motion was made to APPROVE the January meeting minutes by TJ Holmberg, 2nd by D Carroll. Vote unanimous
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Open Space account: \$41,222.02
5. Old Business:
 - a. **Lippincott Property** – Jacob Strong House assessment update: K Barbieri set to speak with Mark Thaler tomorrow about setting up a time/date for the public presentation. Invitations will go out after.
 - b. **CC Open Space inventory and update** – C Altman reviewed what steps had been taken thus far in inventorying our open space. The City's general open space is now under our purview. David Scherf produced a large scale GIS map of all open space in Torrington color coded to identify what we own outright and what we have easements over. Chris will be tallying each parcel to determine what if any restrictions occur on each piece of land.
 - c. **Community Gardens** – S. Michna and D Carroll have been working to get a contact within the Latino community to help identify areas where an additional community garden could go. The main areas they are looking at are on Highland Avenue and in the South End. K Barbieri will speak to someone who may be able to help out with a site in the south end.
 - d. **Urban Farming** – TJ Holmberg and K Barbieri reviewed the information that had been collected and ordered regarding Urban Farming. Discussions followed on how involved we want to get with the regulations in limiting the number of animals on properties, the size of animals etc. Tara Jo and Kim will work further to refine and simplify the regulations.
6. New Business:
 - a. **Torrington Trails Update** – Grant application being worked on with Kathy Ross and Mark Linehan. Request will be for two bridges, some grading/drainage improvements and land acquisition.
An appraisal is required. Three bids were received. – Motion to approve using \$2950 for Hunter Associates from the open space fund to pay for an appraisal of the Red Mountain trail rail property in order to apply for a CT trails grant TJH, 2nd DC Vote passed unanimously.

- b. **Greenbriar Open Space** – ACE required maintenance plan – DRAFT – K Barbieri handed out a draft plan for the maintenance of the newly acquired open space at Greenbriar. Everyone is to review the plan and send Kim any changes, concerns or ideas. Be ready to discuss at the April meeting. It is anticipated that Greenbriar will be making resubdivision application before the end of the month with the PZC.
- c. **Earth Day is Saturday, April 20.** There is a change in venue – we will be meeting at the Armory building while Coe Park is under construction. New signs will be needed because the old ones say Coe Park on them. Still needed: a truck and garbage bags. Kim will contact Scarpelli's, Zeller's and RJB to see if they can still support Earth Day. D Carroll volunteered to man the rain barrel giveaway. The rain barrel drawing will be held at the April 11 meeting. Prior to that meeting Kim will contact the Superintendent of schools to see which schools would like rain barrels.

7. Adjournment: 7:50 Motion to adjourn DC, 2nd SM. Vote passed unanimously.

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

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