

MANCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 21ST, 2010
7:30 PM

Members Present: Tom Leone, Doug Smith, Pat Clancy, Bonnie Potocki, Mark Connors, Frank Belknap and John Weedon. Matt Bordeaux was also in attendance. Mike Lynch of Lynch Toyota on Tolland Turnpike, Manchester was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm.

Tom Leone informed the Commissioners of the status of their terms with the Commission. Mr. Clancy, Mr. Weedon, Mr. Belknap, and Mr. Connors are all due for renewal. Each informed Mr. Leone that they would like to continue to serve with the Commission. Mr. Leone will notify the General Manager.

Mr. Smith prepared a "Friend of the Hockanum" Certificate for Mr. Lynch on behalf of the Commission for the work he has done as a steward of the Hockanum River Linear Trail along his river frontage to the rear of the auto dealership on Tolland Turnpike. This is the third "Friend of the Hockanum" Certificate awarded. The minutes of the last meeting which was held on November 16th were approved with no exceptions. The motion to accept the minutes was made by John Weedon and seconded by Bonnie Potocki; minutes were unanimously approved.

Minutes:

Mr. Henry Thomas a landscape architect gave our commission a follow-up review of the renovations proposed to take place at Highland Park School with a small intrusion on the eastern border of the property into the wetlands buffer zone. When asked about the content of the comments he received from Town Staff, he indicated that they were mostly technical in nature, regarding infrastructure fine-tuning and could be accommodated. Mr. Thomas stated that a sanitary sewer line, not dedicated to the school may need some attention due to conflicts with other utility pipes in the area. Asked if the storm sewers were clean and in good condition, Mr. Thomas said they were pretty good, but two small breaks in a concrete pipe would need to be repaired or replaced.

Mr. Thomas explained the stormwater drainage plan. Concerns were raised by the Commission about maintenance responsibilities of the proposed Stormceptor hydrodynamic separator. Mr. Thomas explained a bit about the "High Performance Schools" program and the responsibilities necessary to maintain such a status.

Mr. Belknap raised a concern about emergency access around the island in the bus loop.

George Logan of REMA Ecological Services detailed the wetlands report. He found a brook trout in the stream on-site and a box turtle up the road. The CT DEP NDDDB provided requirements that will be fulfilled by REMA regarding a survey of species of special concern prior to construction activities. On that note, Mr. Belknap recalled the lousy response he received when he reported a wood turtle, of even greater special concern, on a site where a utility company was working. Mr. Logan explained the stormwater drainage swale and level-spreader. Mr. Logan indicated that while the design is substantially maintenance free, an eye should be kept on the establishment of vegetation in the first few years.

COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no new communications.

REPORTS:

HRLPC:

Doug Smith submitted the Hockanum River Linear Park Committee minutes; they are attached.

Bigelow Brook Greenway:

Doug Smith included with HRLPC minutes.

Case Mountain:

Tom Leone reported that Eagle Scout candidate Alex Padacinni completed installation of cedar post and signage at Case Mountain.

Manchester Land Conservation Trust:

Mark Connors stated that the MLCT continues to seek stewards for various properties.

Rail Trail/Greenway:

Mr. Leone suggested that millings may be available to improve the quality of the linear trail surface through the Public Works Department. Mr. Connors suggested that he will look into the status of a Manchester representative on the Greenways Council as it is believed that Bill O'Neill has retired.

Planning and Zoning:

The Commission asked that Mr. Bordeaux look into the status of the Broadleaf application on New State Road. Mr. Bordeaux also mentioned a few updates related to the POCD update.

Agricultural Task Force:

Mr. Weedon raised the discussion of MAPA's idea to write a letter to the Board of Directors regarding proposed development in the southwest quadrant of Town. It was agreed upon that the Commission should look further into details before submitting an opinion letter.

OLD BUSINESS:

A brief discussion occurred about the Commission's desires for additional material on the Town's website. Due to the late hour, the Commission will follow-up with this subject at a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Commission also briefly discussed the need for further communications regarding regional activity, particularly communications from CRCOG, and the need to discuss such debates amongst each other before pursuing agendas outside the Commission.

Doug Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mark Connors seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Leone Jr., Chairman