

Town of Wethersfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of the July 14, 2010 Meeting

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Chairman Rick Baldoni called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM in the Town Hall Conference Room, which was attended by Commissioners William Knapp, Ralph Moyer, Robert Pulford, and Rebecca Zaliznock. Also in attendance was Kathy Bagley, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department and Christopher Shepard, Director of the Nature Center.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The June 9, 2010 Minutes were reviewed and on a Motion by R. Moyer, Seconded by R. Pulford, approved unanimously with one abstaining vote by W. Knapp.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

C. Shepard presented an informational pamphlet from the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) soliciting public input at a public hearing scheduled for July 20, 2010 at 5:30 PM in the West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium (www.savethemdctrails.org). The meeting is to receive input on the issue of the recreational use of the MDC reservoir land in response to a recent court decision in the case of Blonski v. Metropolitan District. C. Shepard also provided information related to Resolutions passed by the Town of West Hartford and the City of Hartford in support of continued access to the MDC trails; and suggested the Commission support the drafting of a similar Resolution by the Town Council.

MOTION (so moved by W. Knapp): "For the Conservation Commission to direct Chairman R. Baldoni through Town Councillor J. McAlister to convey the Commission's support for the Wethersfield Town Council to pass a Resolution supporting public access to the MDC trails and asking the State Legislator to close the liability loophole".

Commissioner R. Pulford seconded the Motion.
Motion carried with the members voting unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- W. Knapp stated that the Town's purchase of the properties associated with the Wilkus Farm closed in June 2010. The Wilkus Farm Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee has been formed and members appointed by the Town Council (including Commissioners I. Boelhouwer and W. Knapp). The Committee will make recommendations to the Town Council on the suggested use and management of the properties.
- The Beaver Brook Linear Park was discussed regarding possible grants available to assess and remove invasive species. No action has been taken on this issue to date.

IV. WINTERGREEN WOODS

- K. Bagley reported that the Physical Services Department has conducted some maintenance at the park including the removal of downed trees across the trails; the addition of a fresh layer of bark chips to the trails; and the treatment of poison ivy in areas across the trails. Some minor maintenance to the pond dam was completed including the removal of re-bar spikes protruding from the damaged concrete and the removal of branches at the path near the dam.
- K. Bagley distributed copies of the report *A Unique and Priceless Asset: A Brief History of Wintergreen Woods* written by Jim Meehan of the Town Historic Society. The Commission agreed to send a copy of this report to Professor Button of CCSU. The report was written upon a request by the Commission interested in the history of the pond located in the southwest end of the park. The Commission members will read the article for discussion at the September meeting. The Commission agreed to send a letter to Mr. Meehan thanking him for this report, and copied to the Town Mayor and Town Manager.

Chairman Baldoni adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM under a Motion by W. Knapp and seconded by R. Moyer.

Respectfully submitted by

Rebecca M. Zaliznock, Secretary